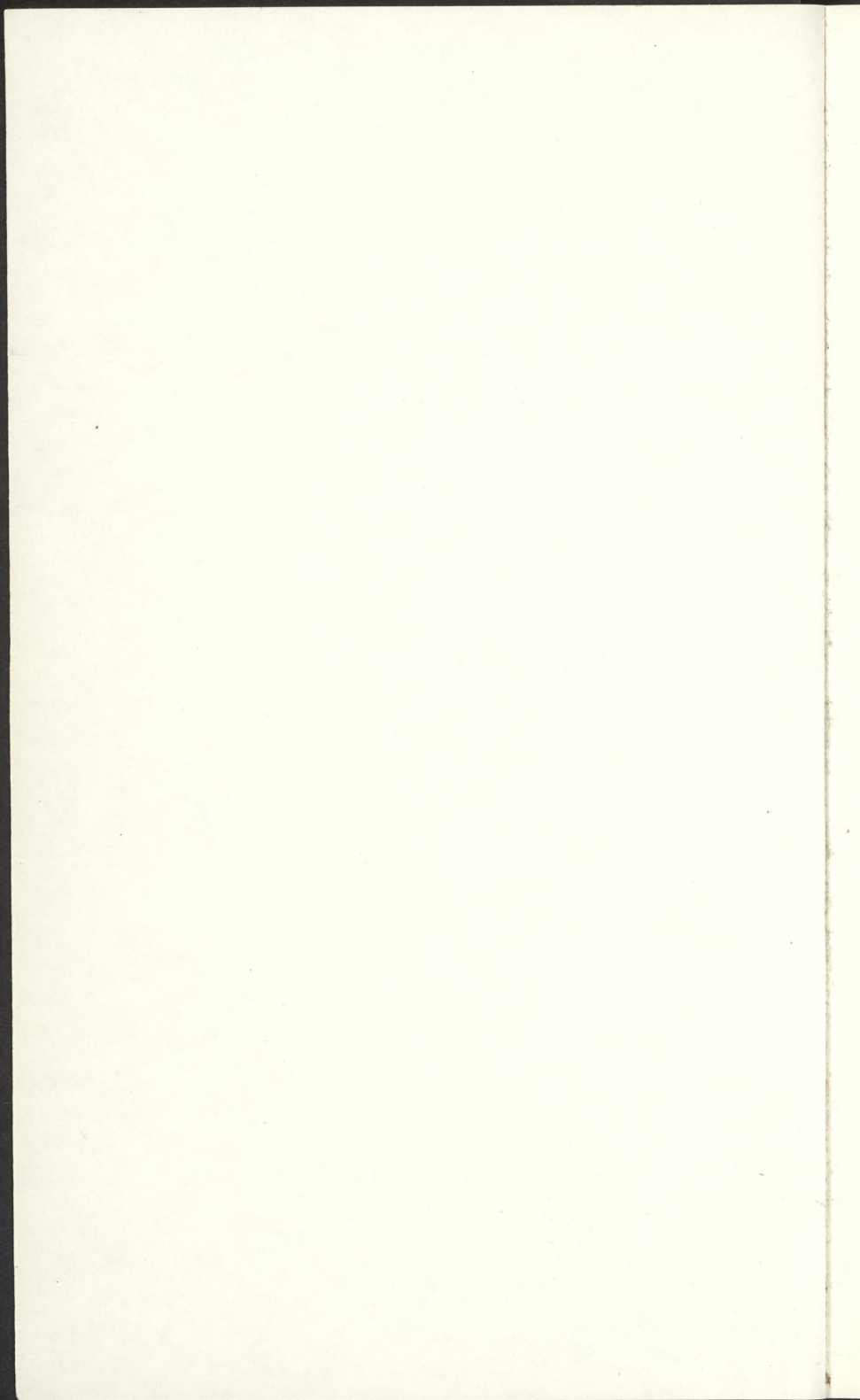
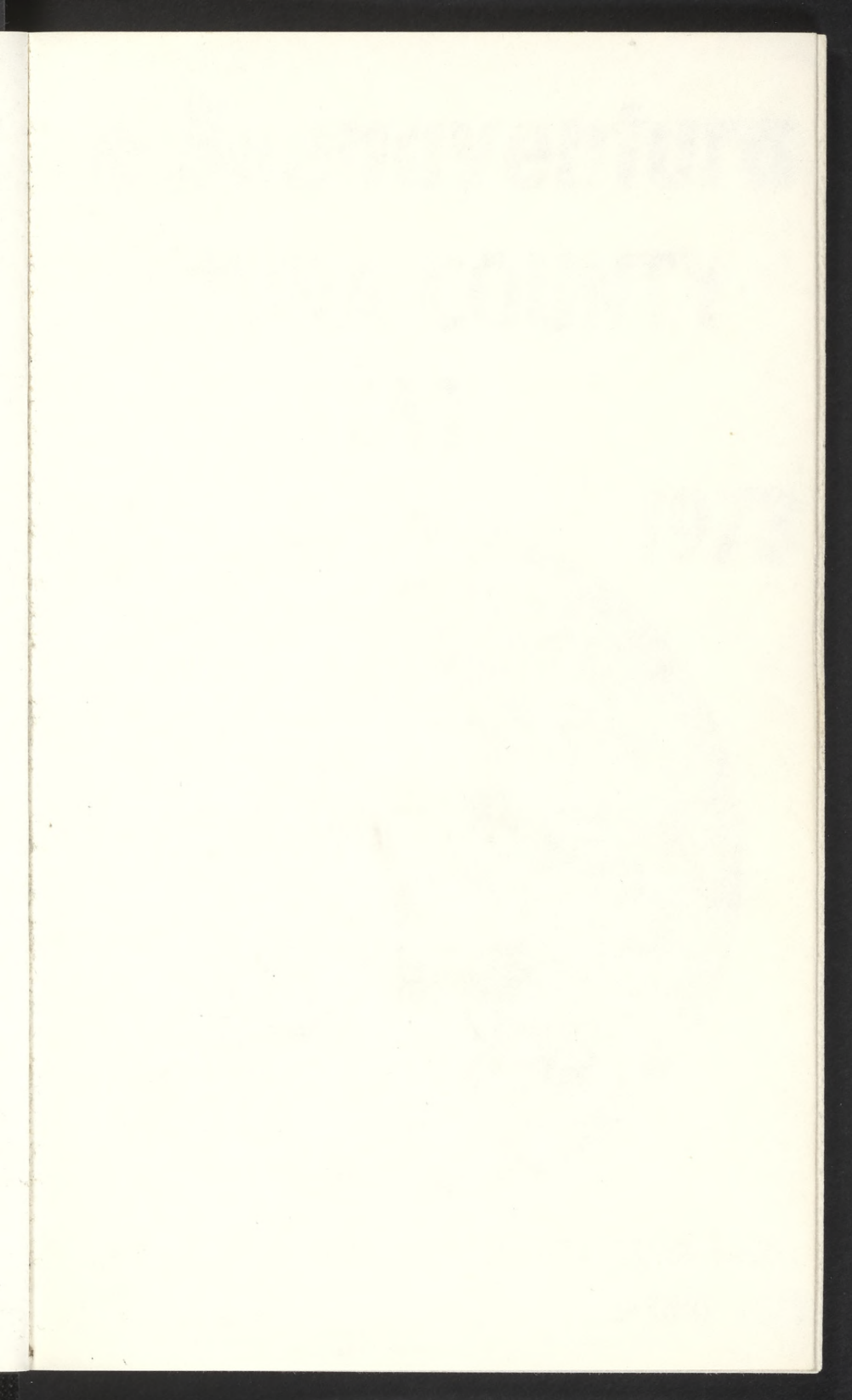
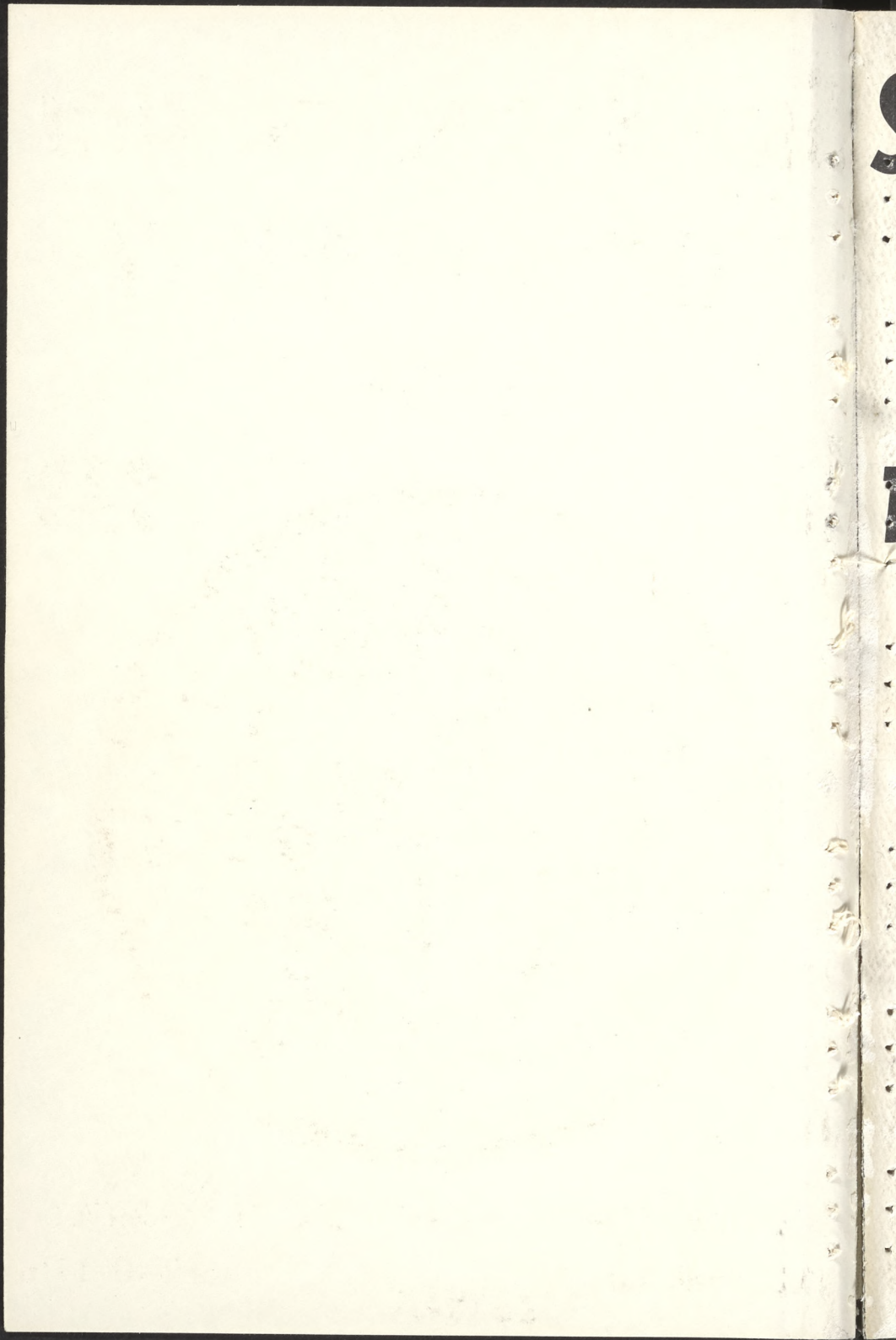


Wallace E. Smith
418 Bradley
Santa Paula, Cal.







San Buenaventura

VENTURA COUNTY

SEAT

1873

1973

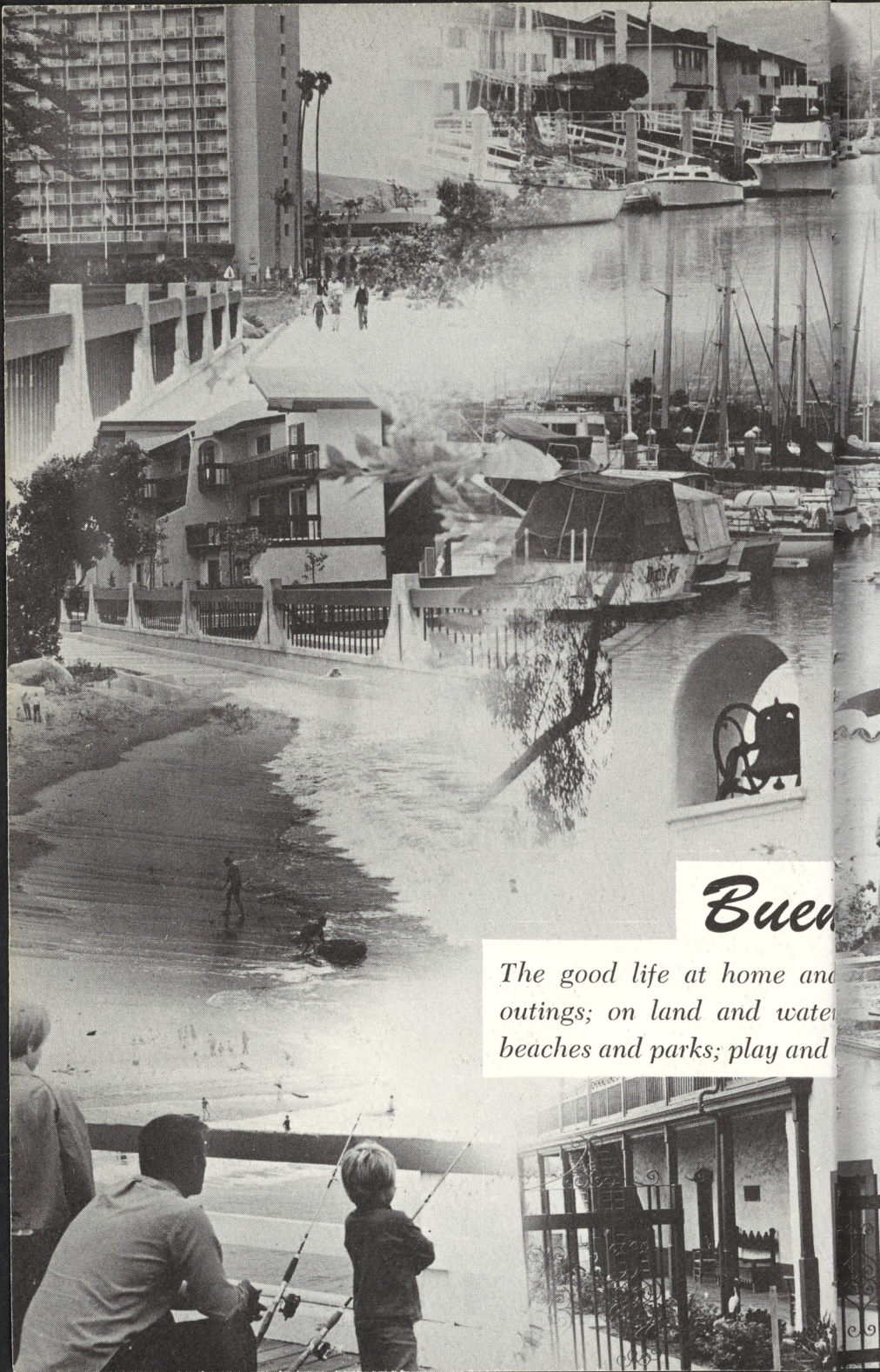


VENTURA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY

VOL. XVIII, NO. 3

SPRING 1973

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Buen

*The good life at home and
outings; on land and water
beaches and parks; play and*



San Buenaventura

VENTURA COUNTY SEAT

1873 - 1973

City of San Buenaventura

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The Ventura County Historical Society's headquarters is the Pioneer Museum, 77 North California Street, Ventura, California. There are three classes of membership: active, \$7.50 per year including husband and wife; sustaining, \$25 per year; and life, \$100.

The *Quarterly* is published from the Society's headquarters at the Pioneer Museum. Grant W. Heil is Editor and the Staff includes Mrs. Naydean C. Baker, Mrs. Florence Dawson, David W. Hill, Miss Linda C. Jordan, Junius H. Kellam, Charles F. Outland, R. Gird Percy, Mrs. Rafaelita Ortega Philbrick, Herbert F. Ricard, Thomas A. Roe and Richard D. Willett.

The Society assumes no responsibility for the statements or opinions of authors of various articles. All communications should be addressed to the Society at the Pioneer Museum. Memberships include subscription to the *Quarterly*.

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The

VENTURA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Quarterly

Vol. XVIII, No. 3

Spring 1973

Grant W. Heil, Editor

The files of the *Ventura Signal* are in the Pioneer Museum; the pictures from the Ventura County Historical Library were collated by David W. Hill. The montage of his photographs on the end-pages was made by Duane L. Garber.

Contents

From the Ventura Signal:

Ventura Wharf; Hill School; Court House; San Buenaventura.

Notice

San Buenaventura is named in the county bill as the county seat of Ventura County during the legislative term. We have no doubt but what the capital will remain at this place. It is centrally located, and at this time has about 1,000 inhabitants; some 200 or 300 souls have been added to it in the last year; and it is thought by the wise that it will more than double in population in the next two years. Several substantial improvements are being commenced now. Messrs. Jos. Wolfson & Co. are building a wharf which is to be about seventeen hundred feet long when completed which will be about the first of next July. We have a bill now before the legislature authorizing the Board of Education of this district to issue bonds for the erection of a public school house, costing about \$12,000. Messrs. Pearson & Jones are contracting for a brick hotel to be 80x100 feet on the ground and two stories high. Messrs. Chaffee & McKeeby are about to put up a brick store which is to be 30x80 feet on the ground and two stories high. The Detroy Bros. have contracted for a new brick building for a market. As soon as the rainy season is over numerous other improvements will be commenced which are not talked of at present. Now all that we need to make us a prosperous people is two or three good harvests, a completion of the railroad to tap this valley and a little spare capital to adorn our town. We have the climate, the rich soil, the industrious people, in fact all that goes to make a people prosperous; and that will, in a very few years, make San Buenaventura a great commercial centre.

Ventura *Signal*

VENTURA WHARF

Build a Wharf

Is it possible that the most flourishing town and region of country on the whole coast is to go still another year without a wharf? It is fervently hoped not; and notwithstanding the hand of fate seems against every effort to build one, yet we believe it will be done the present season. That there is no lack of means for the purpose has been shown satisfactorily. The only element wanting seems to be unanimity; and as that has so far wrecked every proposition, it is to be hoped that hereafter that rock will be avoided. For the want of such shipping facilities as might be had with a little concentrated effort, the people of this town and vicinity are losing thousands of dollars monthly. Indirectly the loss to the country is not only immense but almost irretrievable. With such a wharf as the necessities of the port requires, and such as with the right effort could be quickly erected, freights would be at once reduced from fifty to seventy-five per cent and yet pay the stockholders a better dividend than on almost any other investment. It would do more to induce population, too, than almost anything else; and of all things needful, that is what is most needed. Hundreds of people are passing within sight of us weekly, looking at the country and seeking homes, who never see nor hear of San Buenaventura and never will unless it is made possible for them to do so by affording them a landing. We verily believe that had there been a good wharf here two years ago, as there should have been, the population of town and country would have been double what it now is; and instead of a steamer once in ten days, as is now the case, we would have had them almost daily. The place, too, in all probability would have had a large share if not most of the immense trade that is now carried on between Lone Pine, Cerro Gordo and other

mines and the port of San Pedro. This route is much the shorter and in every way, by nature, the preferable one.

Joseph Wolfson, an enterprising citizen and one of the owners of the lighters in our port, has made a call for a meeting today at 2 o'clock, to take into consideration the building of a wharf. Go and hear what he has to say; and if there is anything practicable in his proposition (and he is said to be a practical man) take hold and help him in this needed work. No more fiascos. Build a wharf or quit talking about it.

May 20, 1871

The wharf meetings held here this week, to devise 'ways and means' for the erection of a wharf, were characterized by a unanimity and sincerety of purpose that augurs favorably for an early and satisfactory result. Articles of incorporation have been agreed on and filed, trustees elected, committee to solicit subscriptions appointed and subscription books opened. The trustees met and organized Tuesday, and all that is now lacking is for each one interested to come forward and lend a helping hand. If the people are fearful of a monopoly (that the work will fall into the hands of those who might not use it for the general good, as seems to have been the case) they now have the power to prevent it so far as it is possible in such cases. Such works, however, sooner or later nearly always fall into the hands or under the management of the few. This is the nature of things and can't be helped. The largest stock companies are generally the greatest monopolies, numbers only serving to lessen responsibility; and in cases like this, whatever may be the designs of individuals, there is little fear of any permanent injurious monopoly as public and private interest is inseparable.

But we need a wharf and as to who or how it is built is a matter, it seems to us, of only secondary importance to the public. When practicable the good will of the community should always be obtained; and as it is claimed that that is not now wanting, it is expected that the work will be pushed to a speedy conclusion.

May 27, 1871

Our wharf projects are now stewing. We shall have

Wharf Meeting

In pursuance of published notice a meeting of the citizens of San Buenaventura was held in Spear's Hall at 2 o'clock p.m., Saturday, May 20th, 1871 to consider the feasibility of building a wharf. The meeting having been called to order, J. A. Shaw was elected Chairman and J. H. Bradley, Secretary. The chairman having stated the object of the assembly, Joseph Wolfson spoke at length upon the subject and thought a wharf could be constructed from 850 to 1,100 feet for 12 or 13,000 dollars, and that he was willing to undertake the work provided he could have the united support of the citizens; that if they would do what they could in contributing to its construction, he and his friends would do the balance. (Stated that the point in the harbor for its erection should be selected by disinterested, competent engineers.) The meeting was addressed by W. D. Hobson, Henry Robinson, Brice Grimes and others. On motion, C. H. Bailey, W. D. Hobson and Henry Robinson were elected a Committee to Draft Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation. Meeting adjourned to meet at 8 o'clock.

Evening Session

Committee on Bylaws &c. reported blank Articles of Incorporation, and recommended the

enactment of bylaws by stockholders. Report accepted.

On motion, \$40,000 was fixed as the capital stock of the company, in shares of \$25 each.

Moved and carried that the words in Articles of Incorporation "when one-half of the capital stock be taken &c." be stricken out and in lieu thereof "one-third &c." be inserted.

The Acts of Incorporation were then signed, and five Trustees elected to wit: J. Wolfson; Frank Molleda; E. A. Edwards; J. Richardson and C. H. Bailey.

M. J. Ashmore, R. M. Brown, Victor Ustisaustiga, F. Molleda and Brice Grimes were appointed a committee to solicit subscriptions and donations.

Adjourned to 8 o'clock Monday evening.

Monday Evening Session

J. A. Shaw, Chairman, called meeting to order; J. A. Barry elected Secretary. Meeting addressed by Wolfson, Hobson and others.

W. D. Hobson was added to the committee on subscriptions. Subscription books were then opened, and on motion a Ratification Meeting was called for Friday night next.

These meetings were all characterized by the utmost unanimity and harmony with an evident, full determination on the part of all present that a wharf must be built.

one in due time. It is only a question as to who shall have the chance of making it.

June 3, 1871

• • •
About the Wharf

A telegram from Heyneman and & Co., San Francisco, says the timbers for a wharf here are being put on shipboard.

February 10, 1872

A wharf at San Buenaventura, so long talked of and so badly needed, is now a fixed fact. The schooner Free Trade, Captain De Young, arrived here with the first installment of piles on Monday. Mr. Jo. Wolfson informs us that he has let the contract for its erection to Mr. Salisbury, and that the work will be commenced as soon as Mr S. is done with his work of extending the wharf at Santa Barbara, which will be in a few days. Salisbury was the builder of the wharf at Wynema, said to be (and proven by the past winter's rough experience) the best structure of the kind on the Pacific Coast. Mr. Wolfson says he will have completed by the first of June 1,200 feet or more which, as we are informed, will reach twenty-two feet of water at low tide, a sufficient depth for steamers and other vessels of ordinary draught.

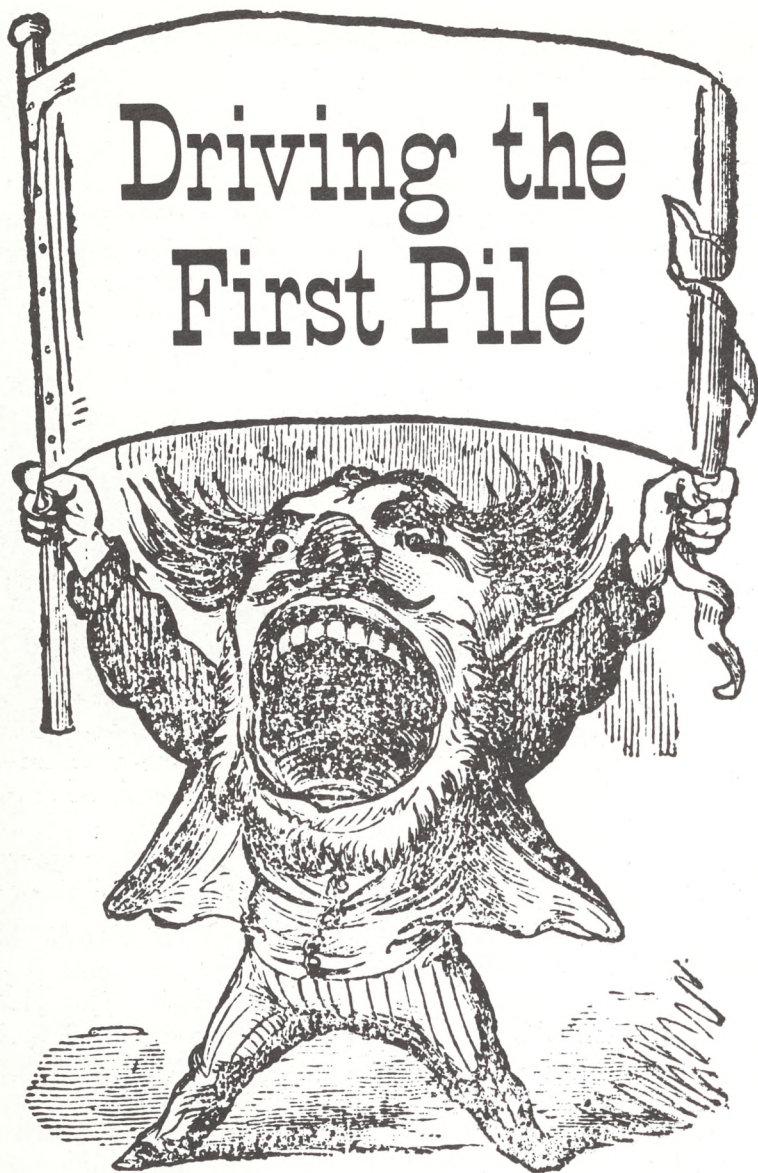
March 2, 1872

The greater portion of the lumber has been landed, and preparations are being made to commence work immediately. The Kalorama will bring the pile driver down from Santa Barbara today. She will then discharge her freight for this place and proceed to Wynema, and there take on board an engine to be used on this work. The wharf is to be 1,200 feet long, and will not be built on a level, but will have a grade of 12 inches in every 100 feet, which will make the outer end some 12 feet lower than the land end. At the extremity of the 1,200 feet is found a depth of 4 fathoms or twenty-four feet of water, and good anchorage.

March 16, 1872

The wharf prospects are encouraging. Wolfson is excavating the bank preparatory; and we know that some of his contractors have arrived . . .

April 27, 1872



We intimated last week that, notwithstanding the failure of the engine of the pile driver to arrive by the last steamer, the work would be commenced with horse power substituted

for steam. The statement was confirmed on Thursday morning; and at an early hour a vast number of citizens (including a large representation of ladies) gathered around the landing place to behold the mighty hammer fall on the initial pile of the great work that is to bridge the breakers, and wed the soil of Ventura to the practicable waters of our bay.

Mr. Joseph Wolfson, the projector of the wharf, was early on the ground, watching with earnest and vigilant eye the progress of the work which, under the experienced direction of Captain Harrington and Mr. Charles Cryer, was going on smoothly. The pile driver was in place upon the embankment where the first row of piles was to be driven. An excavation some five feet in depth had been made where the platform leading to the wharf will be laid. At the embankment fronting on the beach a facade of piles, closely put together, will be driven. These will be covered with heavy planks forming a substantial bulkhead to resist the wear and wash of the high spring tides. From this point the wharf will be run straight out at right angles with the rollers a distance of 1,200 feet, having a fall of twelve feet from the platform to the terminal point which will reach about midway between the first and second buoy where there is between three and four fathoms of water at low tide, sufficient to safely accommodate the largest craft that will trade with our port. The structure throughout will be staunch, solid and durable and aside from its great value to agriculture and commerce will form a promenade even more inviting than our present splendid natural esplanade. The entire work, we are assured, will be finished early in the month of August.

Some little delay was occasioned in coming to the interesting business which had attracted the large and anxious crowd. The hammer, a ponderous mass of iron weighing between 1,800 and 1,900 pounds, at first moved stiffly in the frame; but after several trials and planing the rough edges and slushing the ways, it was got to move smoothly. This effected, the first pile was hoisted into place and a pause ensued when Captain Harrington uncovered and addressed the crowd, saying they were now ready to proceed to hold the ceremony of baptizing the new enterprise. He suggested that some representative of the press should be selected

to perform the initial ceremony; when loud calls were made for Mr. James J. Ayers, connected with the *Signal*, who happened to be on the ground. That gentleman responded to the call by escorting the youngest daughter of Senor Juan Camarillo to the platform of the pile driver. There he addressed the assemblage briefly on the importance of the work inaugurated, and concluded by saying, "In the name of the people of Ventura County, I dedicate this wharf to the uses of commerce and to the promotion of the agricultural and material interests of this section of the state". Miss Camarillo then broke a bottle of wine against the pile, when three hearty cheers to the projectors of the San Buenaventura wharf were given with a will and a 'tiger'. At the invitation of Mr. Wolfson, the ladies first and the gentlemen afterward proceeded to the wharf house where sparkling champagne was uncorked and success to the enterprise drunk in flowing bumpers. As the wharf projectors mean business, everything connected with the ceremony of dedication was done in a brief and businesslike manner; and after the visitors had toasted the enterprise, they speedily dispersed; all satisfied with the earnestness of the beginning of the important work and hoping that nothing would intervene to prevent an early celebration of the falling of the weighty hammer on the last pile of Ventura wharf.

May 18, 1872

Our Projected Wharf Begun in Earnest

Work on the wharf is progressing finely, under the superintendence of Mr. Moody who has taken the direction. The piles are driven now out to a distance of over two hundred feet, and capped and planked nearly the entire length. The builders are rapidly approaching deep water, and additional strength has been given to the structure where it has to resist the greatest force of the breakers. At that point duplicate piles are driven in every row, with a shear that will add effect to their resisting strength. The new engine and the pile driver work very smoothly; and at the rate the structure has been pushed since the change of superintendent, it will not be many weeks before a cargo may be discharged directly upon the wharf.

June 15, 1872



Since Mr. Fraser assumed the superintendency of the work on the wharf, the structure has progressed at a rapid rate. It is now out over three hundred feet, and is advancing at the rate of about twenty feet a day. As a piscatorial point, the wharf has not come up to the great expectations of our amateur fishermen. Sandsharks and shovelfish are too numerous for the plentiful presence of the more delicious fry although now and again a fine mess of roncadores and surffish are bagged by lucky anglers. But as a promenade the wharf is growing in popularity as it increases in length. These balmy evenings, our fair and brave seek the cool zephyrs that waft in from the ocean, and enjoy a delightful and invigorating walk or a dulcet tete-a-tete high above the murmuring of the driving breakers.

June 20, 1872

Work on the wharf is still progressing under the superintendence of Capt. Moody. It is now out nearly 800 feet and to 18 feet of water, and is being widened.

August 31, 1872

This structure is now nearing completion, or rather so far as it will be carried out this season, about 1,200 feet. This distance takes it out into about 20 foot water at medium tide and on to anchorage grounds of blue clay, said be unsurpassed in point of safety on the coast. This wharf is a model in point of mechanical structure, and built of the strongest and best materials. Jo. Wolfson, the projector, has had many difficulties to contend against in the erection of this fine superstructure, and is well entitled to great credit for its ultimate success.

A warehouse will be immediately constructed with the wharf, the material having arrived by the schooner Kitty Stevens last week. Its erection will be under the supervision of T. B. Steepleton, a good guarantee that the work will be done well, and with dispatch.

September 28, 1872

At last a steamer can lay alongside of the wharf, and discharge and take on cargo and passengers. It is a grand improvement upon the old way, and duly appreciated by shippers and travelers.

October 5, 1872

HILL SCHOOL

The Projected School House

A petition has been circulated here asking the legislature to authorize the Board of School Trustees of the San Buenaventura School District to issue bonds for the purchase of a lot and the building of a public school house. This is a greatly needed public convenience, and is so regarded by citizens of the district as will be seen by reference to the names on the petition which is published in another column. Trustee Grimes informs us that the wish of the citizens in this matter is entirely unanimous, and the legislature will no doubt promptly comply with their demand.

January 6, 1872

The bill authorizing the school trustees of the San Buenaventura District to issue the bonds of the district for ten thousand dollars, to be expended in the erection of a school house, has passed both houses of the legislature, and has probably before now become a law. If such is the case, we may soon expect such a school edifice as the wants of our large and rapidly growing school district requires. The bonds will bear ten per cent., and made payable in ten years. If properly advertised, they should, and probably will, bring their full face as the security is undoubted.

March 23, 1872

The bill which authorizes our school trustees to issue ten thousand dollars in bonds for the purpose of erecting a school building suited to the wants of our community was signed by the governor on the same day the Ventura County Bill received his approval. There should be no difficulty in disposing of these bonds at par. A little judicious advertising will effect this. We may therefore consider the Board of School Trustees armed with a capital of ten thousand dollars, and the public have a right to look to them for an edifice devoted to education that will be creditable to the town.

To be sure, the amount is not sufficient to enable the board to build a structure elaborate in architectural display or prententious in ornamental furnish; but it is ample for the main purpose of erecting a spacious and commodious build-

To the Hon. Senate and Assembly of the State of California:

We the undersigned citizens and patrons of the public schools of San Buenaventura School District, Santa Barbara County, Cal., respectfully petition Your Honors to pass a bill authorizing the School Trustees of said District to issue bonds to the amount of ten thousand dollars, to bear interest from the date of their issue at the rate of ten per cent, per annum. The bonds payable in ten years, and to be used exclusively for the procuring of a suitable lot, and erecting and furnishing a suitable building for a public school house, &c., &c.

Y. Obiols, }
 B. Grimes, } Trustees, S.B. District
 J. A. Shaw. }

L.C. McKeeby
 Angel G. Escandon
 F. Molleda
 L. Cerf
 F. Gonzales
 W. Barnett
 Tadeo Sanchez
 Luis Arellanes
 J.W. Goodwin
 Henry Robinson
 E.A. Edwards
 Tho. Snyder
 Henry Spear
 W.S. Chaffee
 Cephas L. Bard
 John R. Stone
 W.D. Hobson
 R.C. Pearson
 V.W. Simpson
 B.T. Williams
 C.J. De Merritte
 L. Greenwood
 Griffin Robbins
 H. Cohn
 J. Tillman
 J.N. Crosby
 Pedro Constantia
 J. Williamson
 T.B. Steptlar
 William Vail
 Juan Elwell
 J.R. Turman
 J.A. Rodriguez
 J.A. Kuhlman
 C.H. Bailey

R.M. Brown
 J.W. Guiberson
 J.H. Clark
 O. Rodgers
 E.C. Brooks
 T. Henning
 F. S. Leech
 J. Richardson, Jr.
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 Fernando Tico
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 John Barry
 A.D. Follett
 George S. Gilbert
 J.L. Peck
 T.F. Chapman
 E.M. Jones
 J.H. Bradley
 J. Wolfson
 D. Taylor

J.T. Saxby.

M. Anguisola
 Bautista Ysoardy
 A. Solari
 David Grove
 C.P. Detroy
 S. Randolph
 Jose de la Luz Arrellanes
 W. H. Granger
 Emmanuel Franz
 M.J. Ashmore
 John Vockland
 P.V. McCarty
 H.H. Colegrove
 J.C. Corry
 Murray & Co.
 H.S. Pope
 Amos Jackson
 J. Richardson
 K.P. Grant
 J.C. Colwell
 W.A. Jepson
 H.H. Miller
 S.L. Shere
 L.M. Sifford
 Robert P. Nash
 M.P. Barnard
 M.W. Stoutenburg
 M.M. Henderson
 Tom F. Riggs
 E.M. Bradley
 C.S. Preble
 J.M. Miller
 J. Detroy
 Wm. D. Carr
 Albert Ayers

ing on approved plans and of durable material. Managed with judgment and economy, ten thousand dollars will put up a very respectable school house. But if the board experiment in ambitious architectural designs and think they can make a ten-thousand dollar house look like a fifty-thousand dollar structure, they will only succeed in raising a pinchbeck monument to their own stupidity. The principle they should adhere to in this important work is the same as that which would govern any sensible man acting for himself. They should measure the size of their purse first, and lay their plans in conformity with its dimensions. Any good mechanic can estimate how far a certain number of dollars will go in completing a given building; and in nothing is the injunction of 'look before you leap' so pregnant with force as in undertaking to erect a house. There should be no friends to reward among contractors, and no bonuses to gratify the palms of influential go-betweens. Every dollar of the fund should be honestly spent to the best advantage of the building itself. The structure should be strong and safe; the rooms commodious, airy and well lighted; and the whole building erected to conform to the one design of affording accomodation to as large a number of scholars as is compatible with comfort and the means at command of the Building Commitee.

If these hints should cause the board to exercise a frugal care from the incipency of the work, that may look to many like parsimony, they will have been productive of a fault in the right direction; and if it results in giving us a building more commodious than pretentious, more substantial than ornate, more chaste than teaboardy, the trustees will in the end receive that best of all rewards: a consciousness of duty fulfilled; coupled with the commendations of the discerning and judicious.

March 30, 1872

A New School House

Loma de Cruz has presented a busy scene the past week. Excavations and preparations for building the new public school house are making good progress.

August 31, 1872

For the following description of the new public school house in course of construction in this place, we are indebted

to W. D. Hobson, the contractor.

A brick building, two stories in height; the first 15 and second 14 feet, in the clear. Main building will be 30 x 68 feet divided into two school rooms below and two above. Also a vestibule 14 x 45 feet with two flights of stairs rising from either side of the front entrance; to have two toilet

SAN BUENAVENTURA SCHOOL FUND BILL

An act authorizing the Trustees of the San Buenaventura School District of the County of Santa Barbara in the State to issue bonds for the said district for the sum of ten thousand dollars.

(Approved March 16th, 1872.)

The People of the State of California represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The School Trustees of the San Buenaventura School District of the County of Santa Barbara are hereby authorized to issue bonds for the said School District for the sum of ten thousand dollars payable in gold coin of the United States in ten years after the first day of April A. D. eighteen hundred and seventy-two, and to bear interest at the rate of ten per cent. per annum payable semiannually in gold coin at the Bank of California in the City and County of San Francisco.

Section 2. Said bonds shall be of the denomination of two hundred and fifty dollars each with coupons for interest attached, and shall be signed by the Chairman of said Board of School Trustees and by the Superintendent of Public Instruction of said County and by the County Auditor of the said County, and shall be authenticated by the seal of the said County Auditor, and shall purport that the said School District owes to the holder thereof the sum of two hundred and fifty dollars in gold coin payable and bearing interest as aforesaid.

Section 3. It shall be the duty of the Board of Supervisors of the said County annually at the same time they levy county taxes to levy a special tax on all the real and per-

sonal property of the said School District, which, when collected shall be sufficient after paying the expenses of collection to pay the interest annually accruing on said bonds.

Section 4. It shall be the duty of the County Assessor of the said County to assess said taxes on all real and personal property in said School District, and to enter the same in the Assessment Roll in a separate column opposite the name of the person, or description of property so assessed.

Section 5. It shall be the duty of the Tax Collector of the said County to collect said taxes at the same time and in the same manner that other county taxes are collected, and to keep a separate account of the same, and to pay to the Treasurer of the said County all taxes so collected at the same time he pays other county taxes by him collected, and to deliver to said County Treasurer at the time of making each payment a full and correct account of all such taxes.

Section 6. It shall be the duty of the said County Treasurer to place all money paid into the County Treasury by virtue of this act to the credit of the County School Fund of said School District and to set apart semi-annually out of the moneys belonging to the said fund, of said School District the necessary amount to pay the interest that shall accrue on the said bonds; which shall be subject to the draft of the Superintendent of Public Schools of the said County.

Section 7. It shall be the duty of the said Superintendent of Public Schools to remit semiannually the funds set apart by the said Treasurer for the payment of the said interest, to the Bank of California, and the expenses thereof shall be a charge

rooms 5½ x 13 feet, and two closets 3 x 10 feet below; and two large rooms above in each end about 10 x 15 each, one for a toilet and the other a library room. The walls of the lower are to be 16 and the upper story 12 inches thick. The roof will be nearly flat, and covered with tin; a belfry 14 feet square at the base, rising five feet to the bell deck from

against the said School District.

Section 8. The said School Trustees are hereby authorized and empowered to use the said bonds or the money realized from the sale thereof for the purchase of land, and for the erection thereon of a suitable building for public school purposes in the said School District and for the furnishing of the same.

Section 9. The said bonds shall be sold by the said School Trustees, to the person or persons offering the highest price therefor: provided said bid shall not be less than eighty-five per cent of the par value of said bonds; and provided that the said Trustees may contract for the material to be furnished and the work to be done paying directly in the said bonds. If in their estimation they can so contract as to realize more than eighty-five per cent of the par value of said bonds for the purpose of selling the said bonds, it shall be the duty of the said School Trustees to advertise the same for sale for at least four weeks in one newspaper printed and published in the City and County of San Francisco and in one newspaper printed and published in the county in which the said School District is situated, inviting proposals for the purchase thereof; and the purchasers whose bids shall be accepted shall pay into the County Treasury of the said County the amount bid by them and shall be entitled to receive from the said Treasurer the bonds so purchased. And the proceeds thereof shall constitute a special fund for the said School District, the the purpose mentioned in Section Eight of this act.

Section 10. It shall be the duty of the Supervisors, Assessor and Collector of said County in the year

one thousand eight hundred eighty-one to respectively levy, assess and collect in the manner herein provided for the collection of funds to pay the interest on the said bonds, the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars for the payment of the principal of said bonds.

Section 11. It shall be the duty of the said County Treasurer to pay the said bonds at their maturity, at the place where the same are payable in the City and County of San Francisco; and the expenses of remitting the money for the purpose, shall be a charge against the County School Fund of the said School District.

Section 12. It is hereby provided that in case of a division of the County of Santa Barbara, or any change in the county lines of said County, the duties herein required to be performed by the county officers of Santa Barbara County shall be performed by the like officers of the county in which the said School District is situated.

Section 13. All of the county officers herein mentioned shall, for the faithful performance of the duties herein required of them, be liable upon their County Bonds.

Section 14. The Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara shall at their regular meeting on the first Monday in May next, or at any called meeting of said Board, levy a special tax on all the real and personal property in said School District sufficient to pay the interest on said bonds for the year eighteen hundred and seventy-two, the expenses of said levy and collection of said tax to be a charge against the County School Fund of said School District.

Section 15. This act shall take effect from and after its passage.

Proposals for a School-House Site

Notice is hereby given to parties owning real estate in the Town of San Buenaventura that the Board of School Trustees will receive proposals or bids to donate or sell a lot or lots to the district as a site on which to locate the public school house up to 4 o'clock, p. m., on the 13th day of April, 1872. Parties making proposals must guarantee the title. By order of the Board of Trustees of San Buenaventura District.

Brice Grimes,
District Clerk.

Sale of San Buenaventura School Bonds

Sealed proposals will be received through the Postoffice at San Buenaventura directed to the District Clerk of the Board of School Trustees of San Buenaventura School District in Santa Barbara County until 12 o'clock m., and the 4th day of May, A. D. 1872 for bids for the bonds of San Buenaventura School District to the amount of ten thousand dollars with interest coupons attached bearing interest at the rate of ten per cent per annum, payable semi-annually on the first day of April and October of each year, in gold coin at the Bank of California in the City of San Francisco, coupon number one payable October the 1st, A. D. 1872.

Said bonds to be of the denomination of two hundred and fifty dollars each and made payable in ten years from the first day of April A. D. 1872 at the

Bank of California in the City of San Francisco.

The act of the legislature approved March 16th, 1872, authorizing the issue of these bonds, will be printed upon the back of each bond and form part of the contract between the school district and the holder of the bonds that may be received.

Offers are solicited for the whole or any portion of said bonds, the board reserving the right to reject the whole or any part of the bids that may be received. Any bids accepted by the Board of Trustees from parties, the said parties making the bids will be notified, and required by the Trustees to deliver the money to the County Treasurer of Santa Barbara County to the credit of this district, and from him receive the bonds.

Copies of the school bill can be seen at the *Alta California* offices in San Francisco, and the *Ventura Signal* office in San Buenaventura.

By order of the Board of School Trustees of San Buenaventura School District

Brice Grimes,
District Clerk.

Time Extended.

The time for receiving proposals for bids for the San Buenaventura School Bonds will be extended until the 11th day of May, 1872 at 12 o'clock m.

By order of the Board.

Brice Grimes,
District Clerk.

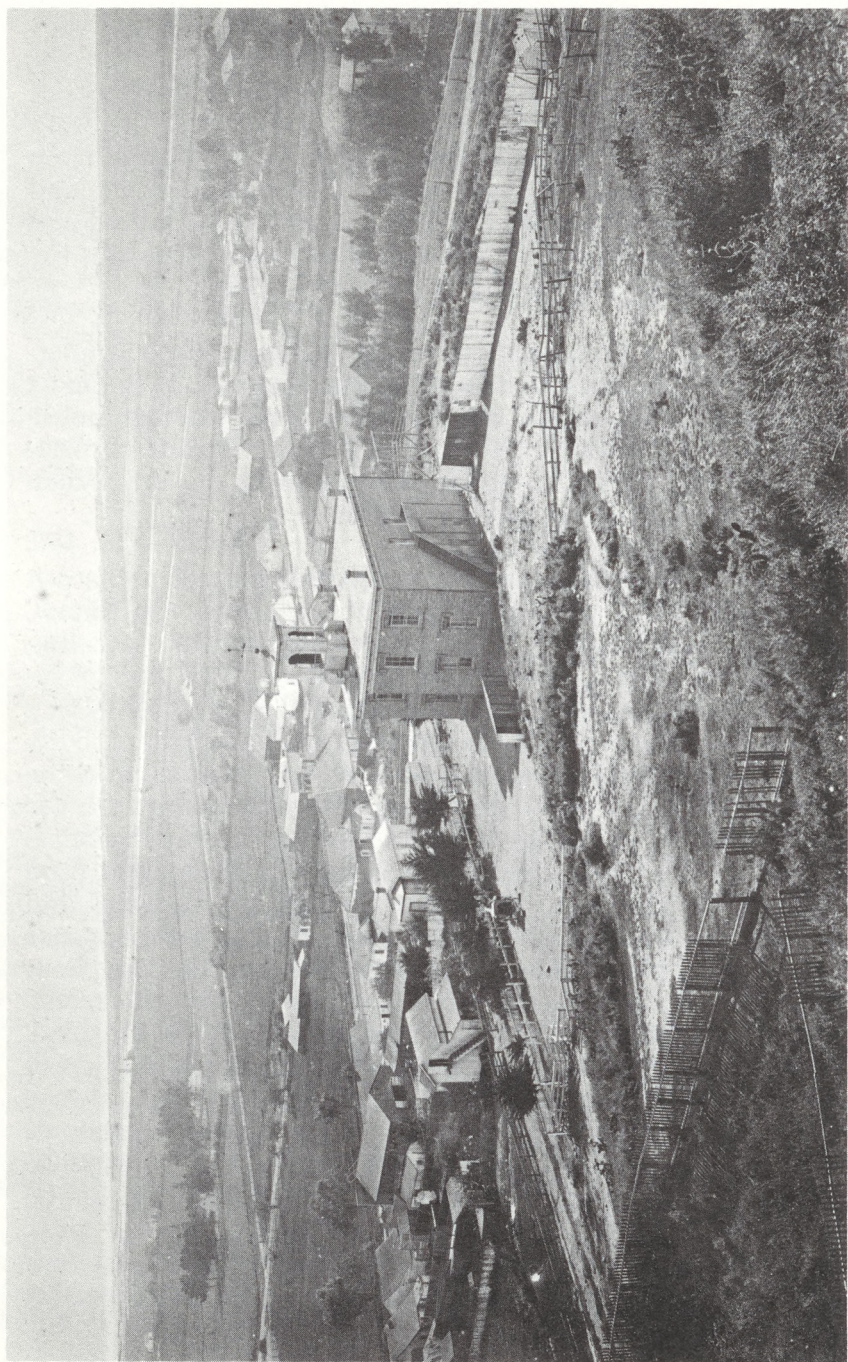
whence it will rise, 10 ft. square, to a height of 17 feet, surmounted by a hipped roof, rod, ball and vane rising from the center. There will also be a back stairway to the doors of the second story school rooms, also a portico over the front entrance, 8 x 12 feet. The cornice of portico, bellfry and main building to be of the Tuscan order. The school rooms, and all other compartments of the structure, are to be lathed and plastered (three-coat work) and furnished with all the necessary conveniences of modern school houses.

September 14, 1872

The new school-house is rapidly approaching completion. It will be among the finest in the State. It is the most conspicuous building on the southern coast, no lighthouse excepted, and is distinctly visible from the Islands of Anacapa and Santa Cruz, the latter being 30 miles distant. When finished, we will give a full description.

December 21, 1872

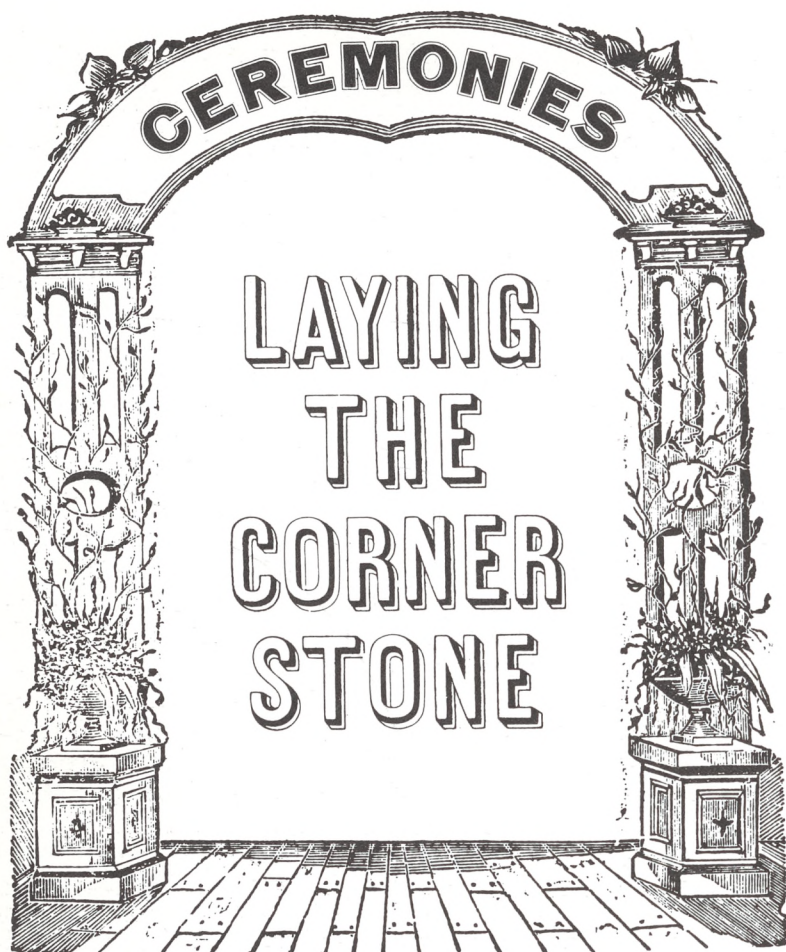
As the new school-house is nearly completed, perhaps it would not be unacceptable to the readers of the *Signal*, especially to those who have had no opportunity of visiting it, to give a brief description of its location, plan and architecture. Situated upon an elevated point of land projecting from a low range of hills toward the coast, it possess a commanding and attractive position. Looking down in front the busy Town of San Buenaventura is seen nestled beneath the hills beyond which, to the eastward, the Santa Clara Valley is visible, stretching for miles away to the mountains that form its opposite boundary. Beyond the town, to the south and west, lie the placid waters of the Pacific. The wide expanse of its surface that can be seen from this point, the long lines of waves visible along the shore as far as the eye can reach, rolling incessantly and dashing their spray into the sunshine, the distinctness with which the rough and rugged outlines of the Islands of Anacapa and San Nicholas are nearly always discernible and the mirage which under a peculiar state of the atmosphere often plays wild antics with their forms make the aspect in this direction one of grandeur and sublimity. Looking toward the north the canyon comes into full view. Its level surface interspersed with neat cottages and well cultivated fields, its precipitous hills rising abruptly on either



side and the three ranges of cragged mountains running transversely across the valley in the distance render the scenery in this direction most beautiful and picturesque. It would require a more practised hand than the writer to picture accurately to the mind the beauty of the surrounding country as viewed from this site. Besides these natural attractions the school will be out of dust, undisturbed by noise and in a locality where the children can breathe the pure mountain and ocean air so conducive to mental and physical health, strength and activity. The building as you approach it with its plain masonry, well proportioned windows and doors, heavy cornice and fine cupola suggests at once the idea that in simplicity there is beauty. The vestibule is 13x42 feet, inside. On either side of the entrance low, broad stairways rise to the landings at the end of the hall; then reversing on the opposite side, run toward the center of the hall above. Under the landings are two small rooms provided with iron sinks and supplied with water by pipes leading from the city reservoir. Diagonally across the vestibule from the entrance, to the right and left, are the doors of the lower recitation rooms between which are two hall closets. There are two library rooms, each 15x17, in the upper vestibule, occupying the spaces between the stairs and front wall. The main part of the building is 26x65 feet inside. There are four large recitation rooms, two on each floor, with folding doors between. They are all precisely alike: wainscoted, hard-finished, with wall blackboards over four feet wide on three sides. Each room has three ventilation flues and a door leading to the back yard. The ceilings are all 15 feet high. All the doors in the front of the building are double, and swing both ways on patent hinges. The architecture is fine, and of the Doric and Tuscan style. The design upon which the house has been erected evidently shows that in its construction, economy and convenience have been well studied.

When the building is fully completed, when the grounds are graded, fenced and ornamented with trees and shrubbery, then can our town boast of an ornament second to none of the kind in the state.

February 1, 1873



Monday, the 16th of September 1872, marks an era in the progress of educational interests in San Buenaventura. On that day the cornerstone was laid in the erection of the first building of any pretensions to size and architectural pretensions ever erected in the place. The ceremonies of the occasion were very properly entrusted to the hands of the Masonic Lodge here and was assisted by our Lodge of Odd Fellows, all in full regalia.

The procession was formed in front of Masonic Hall at 2 o'clock p. m. under the general direction of the Marshal of the Day, Brice Grimes, and in the following order: First,

High School in charge of Prof. Buckingham; Second, Primary School in charge of Miss M. Halley; Third, County Superintendent; Fourth, School Trustees; Fifth, Town Council; Sixth, Independent Order of Odd Fellows; Seventh, Masonic Fraternity; Eighth, Citizens and visitors.

In this order the procession marched to the Triumphal Arch in front of the school building where the order of procession was reversed and halted at the stand, the principal officers taking position on the platform, the Masons forming a hollow square at the north-east corner of the building.

Singing by the schools under the management of J. A. Shaw. An eloquent and appropriate prayer by Rev. H. H. Dobbins. Reading the invitation by the School Trustees to the Masonic Lodge to lay the cornerstone and the authority from the Grand Lodge to comply with the request, after which the M. W. G. M., L. C. McKeeby, assisted by the S. G. W., T. F. Chapman, J. G. W., L. D. Chillson, proceeded to lay the cornerstone in accordance with their ancient forms.

The casket deposited contained the following articles, as enumerated by the Grand Secretary, Geo. S. Gilbert, Jr.:

"This cornerstone of the Public School was laid on the 16th day of September, A. L. 5872 (A. D. 1872) by the most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of California, Worshipful L. C. Mc-

A Partial View of San Buenaventura; November 27, 1875

Mr. J. C. Brewster, our excellent photographer, has placed upon our table a partial view of the Town of San Buenaventura, beautifully executed and finished. It is taken at a point near the Santa Ana Water Company's reservoir. The view takes in a part of the reservoir, the cactus, and the boulders in its vicinity in the foreground. Just over the glassy surface of the reservoir down on the south of Main Street, we have a half bird's-eye view of Spear's large, two-story brick block in which are L. Cerf's general merchandise store, the public hall and the lodge rooms and also of all the buildings on the north and south side of Main Street. The first residence in the foreground to the left, beyond which is the beautiful grove of peppers, is Sheriff Stone's neat cottage fronting Oak Street. The street first to the right running toward the sea is Palm, so named in honor of the giant palm trees in the old mission orchard. The first brick building east of Palm is that of Chaffee & McKeeby, occupied by them as a general merchandise store; adjacent is the large storeroom of Einstein & Bernheim, also general merchants. Bartlett Bros., Mrs. Sturtevant and the Yuba Restaurant occupy the frame buildings east of Einstein & Bernheim's; the next is the bank building which is a brick and handsomely finished. The three one-story buildings adjoining are of brick substantially built and occupied; the first as a saloon; the second as a fruit store and by Paul Sutcliffe with his harness and saddle store and shop; the third is J. A. Kuhlman's variety store. The two-story brick adjoining is Surdam's handsome new brick, as yet unoccupied. The stone finished brick next is the handsome hardware store of Edwards & Grimes'. Farther along is H. W. Snow's new brick, a well finished building inside and out. Glancing the eye along the row



it takes in a row of good frame buildings: the first of which is occupied by Riggen & Wagner, druggists; the second by E. Franz; the third by Col. Goodwin's book, stationery and fancy dry goods and notion store, and the postoffice which is on the corner of Main and Oak Streets. The long, two-story brick building with the balcony, is R. M. Brown's new block, the lower story of which is occupied by Roth & Arnaz; the upper is fitted up for hotel purposes, it being Mr. B.'s intention immediately to add another building on the east, of the same length and double its width. The other buildings in the row in sight on the south side of the street are all frame, and occupied by Brown's C. O. D. store, the Monumental Fire Company, the Signal Power Press Printing establishment, and Kaiser & Conner's meat market respectively. The last building on the left is Brewster's gallery. It was impossible to take in Todd's store, Henning's block or Rider & Perry's harness shop. On the north side we only see in the view first under the reservoir the roof and rear of Randolph's brick blacksmith shop, and Hartman's brewery and saloon building. East of Palm we see a small portion of Hall & Gray's livery stables, and Reitzke's barber shop and bath rooms. Barnett's stone saloon building, and Joe. Roth's brick boot and shoe store and manufactory; both show off better, but not so well as if the view were taken so as to show their fronts. The brick farther east is the elegant jewelry store owned and occupied by C. J. Edson with his fine stock of jewelry, clocks, watches, etc. The large frame on the extreme left is the immense livery, feed and sale stable of Daly & Heasley which covers a lot 60x100 feet. In the distance across the level plains of the Colonia Rancho, the craggy tops of the Guadalupe Mountains are faintly outlined, the point upon which Hueneme and the lighthouse is situated which reach-



es so far out into the sea shows well, as does the little Ventura bay. The steamer which lies on the west side of the wharf is the Kalorama, the sailing vessel on the other side a lumber schooner, the Merchantman, from Puget Sound. Capt. Sudden's wharf is clearly and distinctly represented, as are his huge warehouses and storehouses. The large house towards the wharf and over Brown's block is the Ventura House, our excellent new hotel, kept by W. D. Hobson. Over the top of the Ventura House may be seen a part of Mr. T. H. Daly's gothic cottage. Near by, but hidden in the pepper trees, are Henderson's and Sifford's cottages. South of the Ventura House is J. P. Cutler's two story frame residence, behind which is Brice Grimes' house and handsome grounds. To the right of the row of evergreens is G. T. Grow's octagon house. Mr. Riley's residence and his other houses are hidden by the Presbyterian Church, the large frame building in front of which are the pepper trees. Just north of the church are the beautiful residences of Dr. Bard and G. S. Gilbert, Jr. The two-story residence in the same block is J. A. Shaw's. The building just across from the Presbyterian Church is the Methodist Church, a new, neat and well finished building in the rear of which is the parsonage. North of the Methodist Church are the residences of Rev. T. E. Taylor, Mrs. Stevens, Mrs. Stow and E. A. Edwards, all of which are embowered in the pepper trees. The top of Judge Robinson's residence only can be seen over Surdam's brick block, and Joe Detroy's and Judge Wason's are almost obscured. South of Judge Robinson's is Frank Perkin's residence, and west of him A. S. Clark's, next to which is Leon Cerf's new residence. In the same block may be seen the rear of A. Bernheim's large and handsome two-story residence. Across the street is C. G. Finney's, east of which is Mr. Geary's; half hidden behind the

Keeby, Master of San Buenaventura Lodge No. 214, F. and A. M., acting as Grand Master, assisted by the Board of School Trustees of the San Buenaventura School District, to wit: Brice Grimes, John Barry and Ysidro Obiols. Wm. Hobson, architect, contractor and builder. The Independent Order of Odd Fellows. The Town Council, to wit: L. C. McKeeby, Ysidro Obiols, T. F. Chapman, J. H. Bradley and F. Molleda. The school children of the district and the citizens in general."

Copy of the *Charter and Ordinances* of the town of San Buenaventura.

Copies of *Ventura Signal*, *Santa Barbara Post*, *Times, Press, Index*; *Los Angeles Star, News, La Cronica*; *San Diego World*; *San Louis Obispo Tribune*; *San Bernardino Guardian*; *Anaheim Californian*; *Havilah Miner*; *Kern Courier*; *Inyo Independent*; *San Francisco Call and Chronicle*.

Act authorizing the issue of bonds for the erection of the school house; A blank bond; Bill heads and cards of each of the persons and firms doing business in San Buenaventura; A phial of California wine; Phials of grain with description; Almonds and other nuts; Gold, silver, copper and nickel coins; The working tools of a Master Mason; A Holy Bible.

trees is a cottage owned by J. A. Day. Over the top of the Methodist Church the roof and a part of the front of the house occupied by C. D. Todd may be seen. Just south are the residences of G. W. Chrisman, Selwyn Shaw and D. C. Dean. Across the street from the latter is J. A. Day's house, an elegant two-story frame; east of which is W. S. Cronk's two-story house in which he resides. The square house next east is the residence of E. M. Jones. The large two-story frame to the extreme right, and apparently near the beach, is the residence of N. H. Hickerson; just north of which may be seen the rear of Austin Brown's new house; and east of which are the residences of Stovell and Huston. The gothic house south of the church is H. N. Rigger's present residence; towards the beach from which the rear of Col. Goodwin's, Stiles' and Wright's may be seen; west of it those of Henry Clay and E. S. Wallace; north of Wallace's the cottage of L. R. Herbert is seen, west of which is Mrs. Fish's residence. The large frame building near the land end of the wharf is Wright & Hickerson's planing mill and the rock soap factory. The view, though only taking in a small portion of the town is a good one and shows that Mr. Brewster has a perfect instrument and that he is skillful in his profession. He will soon, from another standpoint, take views showing portions of the town necessarily left out of this one. Many of the handsome buildings of the town do not show including the Santa Clara House, the Ayers House and Ysoardy's new two-story brick block, one of the most costly buildings in southern California. Our fine school house, the giant palms, the Court House the Congregational Church and Miss Smith's School building were out of range. Notwithstanding it takes in so small a part of the town, it is valuable; and hundreds of copies should be purchased and sent to friends east.

Further ceremonies: Masonic song, led by Prof. E. B. Higgins; patriotic song by the school children.

The orator of the day, J. Franklin Williams, Esq., was then introduced and delivered a very fine address. He spoke under rather trying circumstances as he was facing the sun, and a wind storm that threatened lifting speaker and audience to the pinnacle of Loma de Cruz.

After a song and benediction the procession again took up its line of march with quickened pace for home and shelter. Not less than two or three hundred persons were present, a large number considering the inclemency of the day.

DEDICATION

The dedication of our beautiful new school house took place last Saturday. Hundreds of persons were present, and the ceremonies were of peculiar interest to the citizens of San Buenaventura, who are justly proud of their first fine public school house, one among the most handsome in the state.

The exercises were conducted in following order:

1. Song: *Welcome friends*, by Miss Gray's class.
2. Prayer, by Rev. H. H. Dobbins.
3. *Star spangled banner variations*, by Martha Boukoisky.
4. Oration, by Prof. F. S. S. Buckman.
5. Song: *With merry hearts we leave our play*, by the class.

Mr. Brice Grimes then read the school finance report, requesting anyone present to ask any questions for information on the subject; none being asked, the exercise proceeded.

7. *The soldiers joy*, with variations, by Betsy Conn.

8. Interesting speeches were made by Rev. Geo. O'Ash, Rev. H. H. Dobbins, Brice Grimes, Wm. E. Barnard of Hueneme, D. D. Denure and J. Marion Brooks; after which the closing song, *The schoolhouse on the hill*, was sung with fine effect by the class.

March 15, 1873

COURT HOUSE

The Proposition for a New Court House

Yesterday afternoon after mature deliberation, our Board of Supervisors concluded to make the following proposition relative to erecting a court house and jail in this place. The county agrees through the board to bind itself to furnish six thousand dollars in gold coin, conditioned that the sum of four thousand dollars, gold coin, be added to that sum by subscription, and paid in or before the 15th day of July next and that suitable grounds be donated upon which said buildings may be erected.

Prior to the adoption of this resolution there had been held a meeting of citizens to take the subject of building a court house under consideration, at which a committee was appointed who have already obtained between two and three thousand dollars of the required sum; and there is no doubt but the balance will be forthcoming in a few days.

This prompt action on the part of the board, and the citizens of San Buenaventura and vicinity will do much toward furthering the prospects of our new county, and will no doubt meet with the hearty approval of a large majority of its tax payers.

May 10, 1873

Ventura County Bonds

Yesterday Mr. Daly, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, received from the printers, A. Roman & Co., the \$20,000 blanks for bonds authorized to be issued against Ventura County. They are lithographed on good paper 12 x 14 inches with the ten annual coupons affixed, bearing interest at the rate of ten per cent, each bond being for \$500 and therefore just doubling its face in ten years. They cost the county \$100, and reflect credit on the Board of Supervisors for their economy, and the designers and lithographers for their taste and execution.

May 17, 1873

As will be seen in today's issue of the *Signal*, the Board of Supervisors of Ventura County advertise for the sale of

Proceedings of the Board of Supervisors

San Buenaventura,
May 5th, 1873

Board met pursuant to adjournment. Present full board. Minutes of April 9th and of April 10th, and of special meeting held on April 17th read and approved.

. . .

A communication was received through Father Juan from the Rev. Amat, Bishop of Monterey, offering to give the choice of three half blocks of that highly improved and beautifully located property known as the Mission Orchard on condition that the county would build, within two years, a court house not to cost less than \$10,000. On motion the board extended a vote of thanks to the reverend gentleman, and placed the communication on file for future consideration.

. . .

Plans and specifications for court house and jail received from Mr. Hobson, and placed on file for future consideration.

It was ordered by the board that six thousand dollars from the sale of Ventura County bonds be appropriated and set apart for the erection of a court house and jail within the Town of Ventura provided however, that the inhabitants of said town and vicinity subscribe and deposit with E. A. Edwards, County Treasurer, four thousand dollars on or before the 15th day of July net in gold coin to be used by the supervisors in the construction of the above named buildings; provided also that the citizens donate a suitable building lot for said purpose. The order was sustained by Supervisors Daly and Conaway; opposed by Supervisor Thacker, and at the request of Mr. Thacker the vote was recorded.

. . .

Board adjourned.

S. M. W. Easley,
Clerk.

VENTURA COUNTY BONDS

Sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Supervisors of Ventura County in the Town of San Buenaventura and State of California until

MONDAY, JULY 7, A. D. 1873
at 2 o'clock p.m., for the purchase of
Ventura County Bonds

To the amount of

\$20,000

or for any part thereof authorized to be issued by the Supervisors of said county as provided by an act of the Legislature of the State of California, entitled *An act to create the County of Ventura, to establish the boundaries thereof, and to provide for its organization*, approved March 22, A. D. 1872. Said bonds to be of a denomination of five hundred dollars each, with coupons for interest attached, principal and interest payable in

GOLD COIN OF THE UNITED STATES

Said bonds will be payable ten years from the date of their issuance, viz: May 1, A. D. 1873, and will bear interest at the rate of

TEN PER CENT PER ANNUM
payable annually, at the office of the treasurer of said county.

Bidders will state the rate per cent. at which they will purchase said bonds, payable in United States gold coin.

The board reserve the right to reject any or all bids, as the public good may require.

Proposals should be addressed to Board of Supervisors of Ventura County, and should be endorsed 'Proposals for the purchase of Ventura County Bonds', samples of which can be seen at the office of A. Roman & Co., San Francisco, or at the County Clerk's office of Ventura County.

James Daly,
C. W. Thacker, } Supervisors.
J. A. Conway }

S. M. W. Easley,
Clerk.

twenty thousand dollars of her bonds. This will create our county's first indebtedness; and let us hope, its greatest if not last. Starting as she does, under circumstances so highly favorable, the twenty thousand bonds will prove no drug in the market and should command a premium at home or abroad. Time, interest and security are all satisfactory as is the management under which they are issued.

May 24, 1873

The following are the bids received by the Board of Supervisors for the county bonds: James Phelan, 75 1/8; Chas. Sutro, 87 1/2; James Malineaux, 92; Michael Reese, 92 1/2; the last bid being accepted.

July 19, 1873

The Courthouse Fund

We are glad to announce that the county seat question is settled, and that the court house of the county is to be built in San Buenaventura. The proposition of the Board of Supervisors has been complied with by the people of the county, and the \$4,000 in gold was placed in the hands of our County Treasurer ahead of time by Mr. Owen Rodgers, the treasurer of the committee appointed to raise the amount. Much credit is due our citizens for the promptness with which they all responded to the calls of the committee. Where all have done so well, it seems unfair to discriminate, but we feel justified in behalf of our citizens in especially thanking Messrs. Owen Rodgers and W. D. Hobson for the energy and zeal with which they have worked in this matter.

July 19, 1873

The Board of Supervisors have accepted the donation of \$4,000 (court house fund raised by the people of the county) and now advertise for plans, specifications and bids. The building is to be erected in the Mission Garden on Santa Clara Street.

August 2, 1873

Local Brevities

What is Going on Around us

The court house will be built on the south side of Santa Clara Street. In front will a row of large olive trees, which will afford a delightful shade. The floors of the building will be three feet above the ground, and the necessary filling

Proceedings of the Board of Supervisors (August Term)

The Board of Supervisors met at a regular meeting on Monday, August 4; present: James Daly, C. W. Thacker and J. A. Conway; James Daly in the chair.

Bills Allowed

It was ordered that a building fund be created, and that \$6,000 of the money received from the sale of Ventura County bonds be placed in said fund; also that the sum of \$4,000 subscribed by the citizens of the Town of San Buenaventura and vicinity and now in the hands of the County Treasurer, be placed in said building fund, the same to be used by the Board of Supervisors to aid in the erection of a county court house and jail combined.

The Clerk was ordered to advertise for three weeks in the *Ventura Signal* for sealed proposals, etc., for the erection of said court house and jail.

The Board then adjourned until the 25th of August, 1873, at 2 p.m.

By L. F. Eastin, Deputy.

S. M. W. Easley, Clerk.

NOTICE TO ARCHITECTS

INVITING

PLANS & SPECIFICATIONS

FOR THE ERECTION OF A COUNTY

COURT HOUSE AND JAIL

Combined

Supervisors Office
San Buenaventura, Ventura Co.

August 7, 1873

In accordance with a resolution of the Board of Supervisors, plans and specifications for the erection of a County Court House and Jail (combined) on any part of Santa Clara Street within the Town of San Buenaventura in said County is hereby invited, and will be received in open session of the Board Monday, August 25, A.D. 1873 between the hours of two o'clock and four p.m. of said day.

The said plans and specifications to provide for the erection of a building at a cost not to exceed

Ten Thousand Dollars

gold or silver coin.

The said Court House and Jail to be a plain building and must be two stories in height, each story

to be fifteen feet in height in the clear, and constructed of stone and brick. Jail and cells to be in accordance with the law of the State of California.

Said plans and specifications to be in detail, accompanied with estimate of expenses, and must be full and complete to the satisfaction of the Board of Supervisors.

The party submitting the plans and specifications which shall be adopted by said Board, shall receive as a compensation therefor, the sum of \$75 in U.S. gold coin.

Notice:

Competition is hereby invited with the distinct understanding that the Board reserve the right to reject any or all of the plans, specifications and estimates as the public good may require.

Also, that the party or parties whose plans, etc. may be adopted shall be required, before the premium shall be awarded, to give a good and sufficient bond that the erection of said building shall not cost to exceed the amount so estimated by him or them.

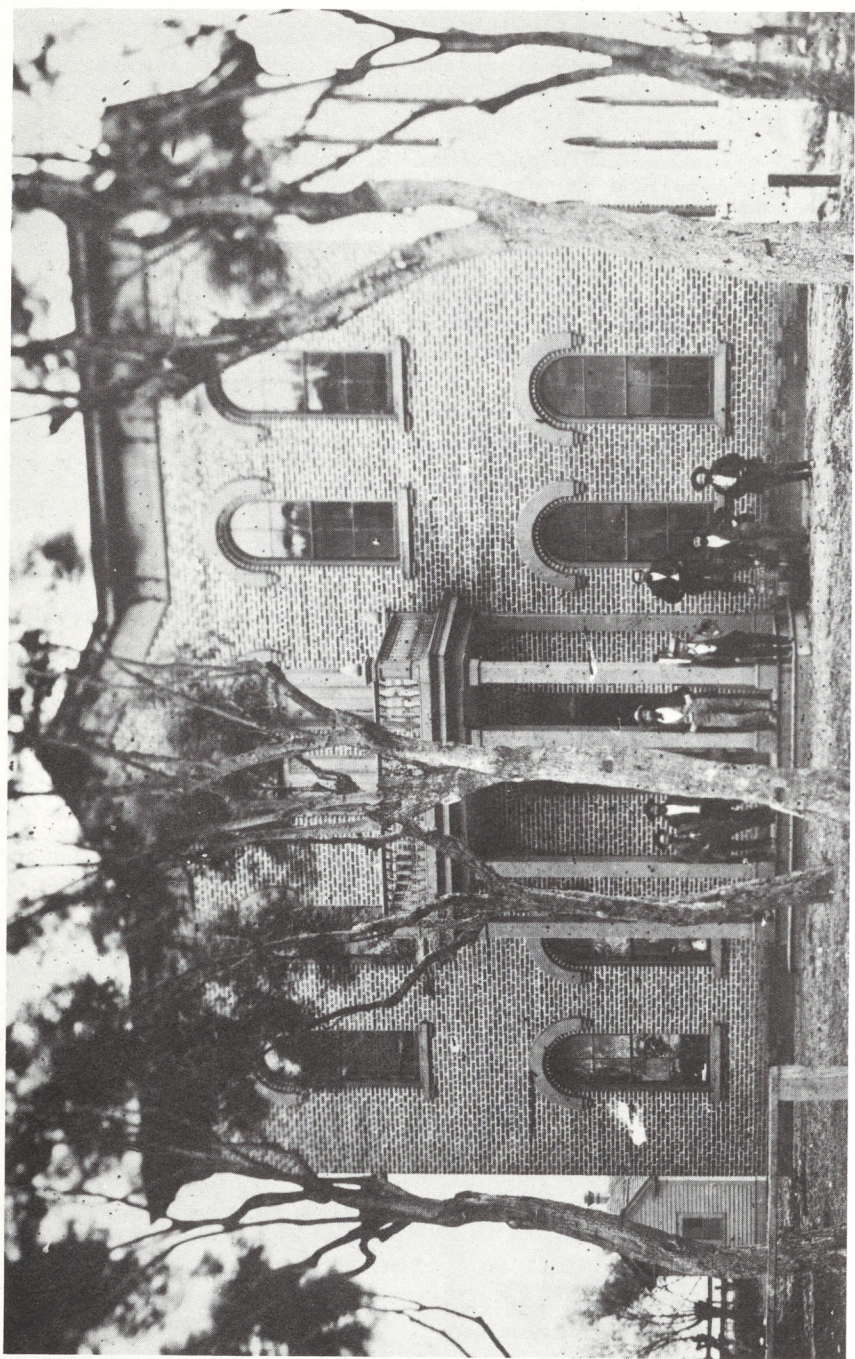
Plans, etc. for the erection of said building to be completed and filed with the Clerk of said Board of Supervisors on

Monday, the 25th Day of August, between the hours of two and three o'clock of said day. By order of the Board.

S. M. W. Easley,
Clerk.

By L. F. Eastin, Deputy.

Dated August 8, 1873.



done with gravel and sand.

August 16, 1873

The contract for building the court house has been awarded to Messrs. W. D. Hobson and T. B. Steepleton, of this city. They are both close calculators and finished mechanics and will no doubt make us a credible building.

September 13, 1873

The new court house is growing rapidly and will soon be ready for occupancy.

November 15, 1873

The roof on the new court house is completed, and soon the inside work will be finished. Now the proper authorities should so improve the streets as to make it accessible during the wet season. A few dollars judiciously expended in good walks would materially aid in satisfying the people with the location.

December 13, 1873

The new court house is mostly completed and so far as we can see is a creditable job. The cells in the jail, we think, are badly ventilated; but perhaps that could not be avoided, being built as they were in the court house building. The jail should have been separate from the court house and upon ground where good drainage could be had.

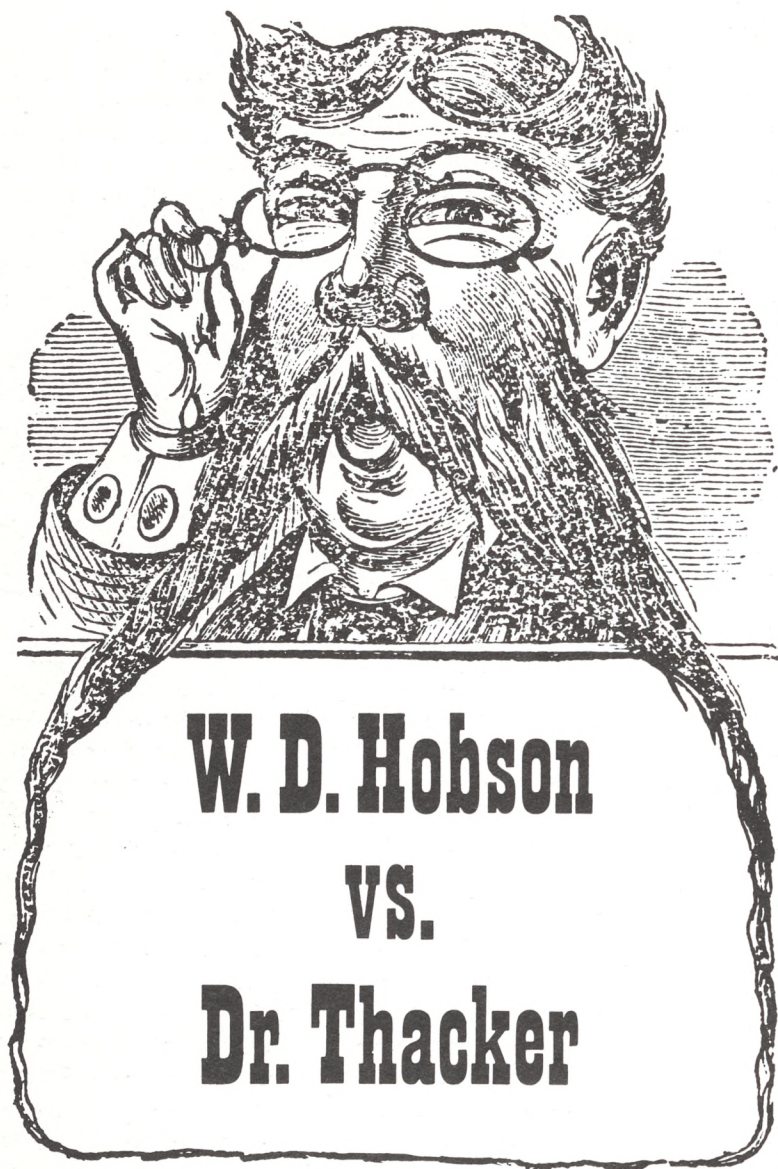
January 10, 1873

The clerk's and sheriff's offices have been moved to the new court house where, in a few days, our new officials may soon be found as snugly quartered as any in southern California. The clerk's office furniture were planned and arranged according to the suggestions of Mr. Eastin, the present deputy, whose long experience in the office has eminently fitted him for such work. The room is light and airy, and well finished. The court room, though small, is neat and pleasant. What has been said of the clerk's may be said of all the offices.

February 10, 1873

The board took formal possession of the court house and jail and ordered that the sum of \$258.60 be paid Messrs. Hobson and Steepleton, balance due on contract, from building fund.

February 26, 1874



I deem it proper to give my reasons as stated before the Board of Supervisors for voting against the passage of the order for six thousand dollars to be used in putting up county

buildings. I stated that I was not an enemy to San Buenaventura; that I would like not only to see the town prosperous and thrifty, but the whole county also; that I was a Supervisor of the Third District, and as such I desire, as nearly as possible in matters of such importance as this, to reflect the wishes of its people; that at this time I felt well assured that they did not desire any action taken in the matter of erecting county buildings; that it occurred to me that the question of the location of the county seat should first be settled before moving in the matter as now proposed; that the law made ample provision for this, and that a proper number of the legal voters in the county could have the question of location submitted to the people and by them passed upon whenever in their judgement they saw fit; that if a majority of the people should, when such question was submitted, decide in favor of San Buenaventura or any other place, I shall certainly feel it my duty to acquiesce in their decision; that by deferring the matter a year of two population and property would so increase as greatly to lighten the burthen of taxation for this purpose; that I desired, too, to see all the competing places for the location of the county seat have a fair and open contest before the people, and that the passage of the order would militate against this view; that I dissented from the position assumed, that it would be a matter of economy to erect buildings as proposed, and that the money and building sit as now offered would be lost to the county if this order now failed to pass; that my reason for this dissent was, that in submitting the question of location of the county seat to a vote the rivalry between the places aspiring for said location would be so exciting and lively that each one would bind itself to contribute a larger sum for building purposes than could possibly be secured under any other circumstances; and that in such a contest I could but believe that San Buenaventura would bind itself to give a larger sum than that now offered; that aside from all this, if it could be shown to be economy, I very much questioned the propriety of passing the order. I stated that our liabilities already exceeded eight thousand dollars, and our county officers were yet to be paid, courts were yet to be held and many other things were to be done at the expense of the county. In view of the liabilities

already incurred and the necessary expenses that must accrue, it was with me a matter of grave doubt whether the net proceeds resulting from the sale of bonds to the amount of twenty thousand dollars would meet all these demands and allow us six thousand dollars to be expended as contemplated by the order. And further, I was of the opinion that section 28 of the organic act providing for the sale of the bonds did not even contemplate the erection of county buildings, in as much as the language of that section declares that the supervisors "may negotiate the same to provide a cash fund to be used in the payment of the first expenses of the county, and the salaries of its officers". I did not think "first expenses" here meant the erection of county buildings when viewed in the language of section 17 of the organic act, which says: The Board of Supervisors shall procure and provide a suitable place or places to be used as a court house and jail, and for the accommodation of the various county officers. To provide "a suitable place or places" for these purposes certainly did not mean that we should erect or build such for the very plain reason that it would have been an impossibility to have done so at such time as these things were required whereas it was in our power to do so by leasing as we had already done. Finally, that for the reasons assigned, I would vote against the passage of the order.

With slight alterations the above is substantially my statement before the board. In addition I will state one thing, bearing on the economy view of the question, which escaped my memory when before the board. If the order is made effective, we will have to provide for the payment of the interest on the bonds yearly for ten years, and of the bonds themselves at the end of ten years by taxation. The interest each year will be six hundred dollars, the sinking fund each year to meet the payment of the bonds at maturity will also be six hundred dollars, making the sum total twelve hundred dollars to be raised by taxation. We now pay for the necessary buildings at the rate of nine hundred and sixty dollars per annum, a sum of two hundred and forty dollars less than the sum required under the operation of the order as passed.

While I claim to have been honest and conscientious in my course in regard to this matter, I concede that the other

members of the board were equally honest and conscientious in viewing it in a different light from what I did.

May 17, 1873

C. W. Thacker

Editor *Signal*: With your permission we would like to give our view of the court house question. We heard our friend Dr. Thacker express his views on the subject the other day when the matter was before the Board of Supervisors of which he is a member, and would like to have our county friends look at both sides of the question.

The doctor thinks the location of the county seat should first be settled, and says the law makes ample provision therefor, &c. We fail to discover any special provision in the organic act creating the County of Ventura for this purpose, or anything in said act to denote that the county seat of this county is not as permanently located at San Buenaventura as are the seats of other counties at their present locations.

We are, of course, well aware that the codes provide a mode of changing the location of all county seats and that mode is equally available to the people of Ventura County to-day as it will be at any future time; and we are informed that the chairman of the board is ready at any time the people may desire it to call a special meeting of the board, and order an election at once to settle the question of location, provided the requisite one-third of our voting population think it a matter of sufficient importance; and we will further guarantee that we will be willing and ready to vote the same appropriation to any locality which the people by their votes may select. Therefore we see no hardship in this matter. The only questions worthy of consideration are whether a court house and jail are necessary, and whether it is economy to build them at once or to continue to pay rent and guard prisoners until more than the value of the buildings has been expended in that manner, as has been the case in Santa Barbara. Mr. T., however, thinks it will not be economy to build, and as a proof thereof says we will be taxed \$600 per annum to pay the interest on the bonds issued for building purposes and \$600 more for sinking fund to provide for their payment at maturity; whereas we now pay only \$960 per annum for rented buildings, being \$240 less per annum than we will be required to pay if we build; whilst he

fails to discover that by paying this extra \$240 per annum for ten years that we have at the end of the time under the latter course a court house and jail for the sum of ten times \$240, or \$2,400; while if the other course is continued, we have nothing. We certainly think according to his own showing there is a clear profit to the county of the difference between \$2,400 and the estimated cost of the building and lot which is \$11,000; and if our county assessment amounts to \$2,400,000 (which we are assured is less than it will be) this \$240 per year extra tax that will afford us a court house and jail clear in ten years amounts to exactly one cent on the one hundred dollars of taxable property, or one dollar per year to the taxpayer who is worth ten thousand dollars. But this is not all, or nearly all the saving to be made by building at once. We now pay, as we are informed, four dollars per day for guarding prisoners who are not with the guard as secure as they would be in the proposed cells without guard; and we are likely to have more or less prisoners to guard all the time, making the unnecessary expense of about \$1,500 per annum to be added to our taxes for the want of a court house and jail, or about \$15,000 extra indebtedness to be paid within the aforesaid term of ten years. These figures may seem exaggerated to some of you, but it is only a repetition of what has actually been the case with the County of Santa Barbara. So much for the economical view.

Now let us consider the propriety of the measure. What accommodations have we really got for our \$960 per year? Our court room is situated immediately over a barroom which is always more or less noisy, so much so at times (as the board have already experienced) as to be very annoying; our jail is insecure; our records which we are paying \$4,000 to have transcribed will, for lack of a suitable fireproof vault, be liable to destruction at any hour. In regard to our ability to build, Mr. T. tells you we have already expended \$8,000 of the bonds we are authorized to issue and that he doubts our having the amount appropriated to spare. Let us look into this matter for we are wisely prohibited from running in debt beyond the amount of said bonds. Four thousand of this expense is for transcribing our records; about \$1,000 is for books, seals, stationery, &c. sufficient for more than the present year;

and some \$600 or \$800 expended in completing our organization and settling with Santa Barbara County, leaving less than \$2,000 actually expended for current expenses for the first four months of the year. Provided our county bonds sell no better than our school house bonds we should realize \$19,000 for them, leaving after deducting the proposed appropriation and the \$8,000 already spent \$5,000 for current expenses until taxes are collected (some five or six months) without counting anything to be collected from licenses or personal property tax which is already coming in. A word more in regard to authority to build. Mr. T. seems to lay considerable stress upon the clause in our special act which reads that the board shall procure and provide a suitable place or places to be used as a court house or jail, and concludes that to provide a suitable place or places does not mean to build. In answer to this we have only to say were there no general law granting them the authority, the terms procure and provide certainly apply equally as well to building as leasing, and we do not understand that they are by the act limited to any particular length of time; but only to procure and provide suitable places as soon as they can which, I think, even he will not contend they have done.

In conclusion, let us remark that it does not in the least surprise us that one supervisor from the Sespe (who is, perhaps, the most disinterested one of the three in regard to locality of county seat), should be in favor of building at once. It appears to us the only business view he could take of the matter. Neither would we impute any other than the purest motives to the action of Dr. Thacker; but we fear he has in his desire, as he expresses it, "to reflect the wishes of his people" entirely lost sight of the true interests of the county at large.

W. D. H.

Editor *Signal*: From the article of W. D. H. in your issue of last week it would seem that he had not only heard our views as stated before the board, but that he had likewise been favored with a sight or knowledge of our article before it appeared in the paper as he reviewed statements made therein which we did not mention before the board. Our article was, of course, intended for the eye of the public; and as he desired his country friends to hear both sides the ques-

tion, we don't know that we can censure him for managing to get his article inserted just below ours. This, of course, would make his appear to better advantage than if it had been delayed a week longer. Notwithstanding, we entertain no feelings of hardness or unkindness to him or any one else by reason of this, but feel more like congratulating him on account of his great good luck; we have only to regret that our bad fortune prevented us from having the substance of what we are now writing inserted at the end of W. D. H.'s article. Nevertheless we will try and put in an appearance in your issue for this week.

Then to the matter in hand. W. D. H. first takes us to task for speaking of settling the question of location of the county seat, says he fails to see anything to denote that the county seat is not as permanently located in this as other counties, &c. All this we concede. But was it so located by the voice of the people, as expressed by them at the ballot-box? We think, too, it would be nothing amiss for him to make an application of this criticism to himself.

In the very next paragraph he goes on to speak of the chairman of the board's willingness when the matter was put in proper shape, to take the necessary steps "to settle the question of location".

Our positions viewed in the light of economy, as explained by W. D. H., "demonstrate rather thinly". Craving his pardon, we would like to present them in a different light. He says according to our own showing at the end of ten years we would have a building and lot worth \$11,000 less \$2,100 by building now, whereas we would have nothing by leasing. In our article we spoke of deferring the erection of buildings one or two years, not ten. But as he has taken ten as the period, we will show up the bright side in contrast with the dark as given by him. Then, we will say, at the end of ten years San Buenaventura can better afford to give \$8,000 and a building site than she can now afford to give \$4,000 and a building site. In fact, may we not safely conclude that her population and property in that length of time will more likely be treble than double what it is now? And shall we conclude that at that distant day her spirit of liberality will be less than it now is? Surely not. Then take the \$240 a year

saved by leasing and add it to the \$8,000 and the building site and what becomes of W. D. H.'s economy. But the above is really not our plan. We spoke of deferring the matter a year or two. At the end of two years we believe San Buenaventura or some other place will give \$6,000 and a building site when the question comes before the people to be passed upon. Then by waiting two years we will get \$1,000 a year, with \$240 a year as the difference between leasing and building.

It is true we pay our jailor \$4 per day, but this is not all for guarding: one dollar is allowed for giving the prisoners proper attention. When we get rid of the prisoners on hand, we do not expect to pay \$3 per day for guarding. This is now allowed by reason of the jailor having incurred extra expense to make the jail secure.

We see no good grounds for changing our views as to the intent and meaning of the organic act. To procure and provide a suitable place or places to be used as a court house and jail does not carry to our mind the idea of building a court house and jail. In that case it seems to us the language would have been "to erect or build" a court house and jail. The term "to be used" indicates that these buildings were erected for other purposes, but were to be used by us temporarily for this particular purpose. Then the providing a cash fund to be used in the payment of "the first expenses of the county" leads us to conclude that allusion was simply had to the necessary current expenses that would accrue before we could assess and collect taxes. The erection of or putting up county buildings is not once mentioned in the organic act.

In a matter of as great interest as this is to the public we think the people have a right to and should be heard. Even if it could be proven beyond all sort of question to be a matter of economy, we do not think it prudent for the supervisors to move in the premises except by the voice of the people properly expressed.

There are other points in W. D. H.'s article which we would like to notice, but the great length of our communication will not allow us to do so. We will say in conclusion that we will have to see "the true interests of the county at large" in a very different light from what we now see them before we decide to ignore and disregard what we believe

to be the known wishes of the people of our district.

May 24, 1873

C. W. Thacker

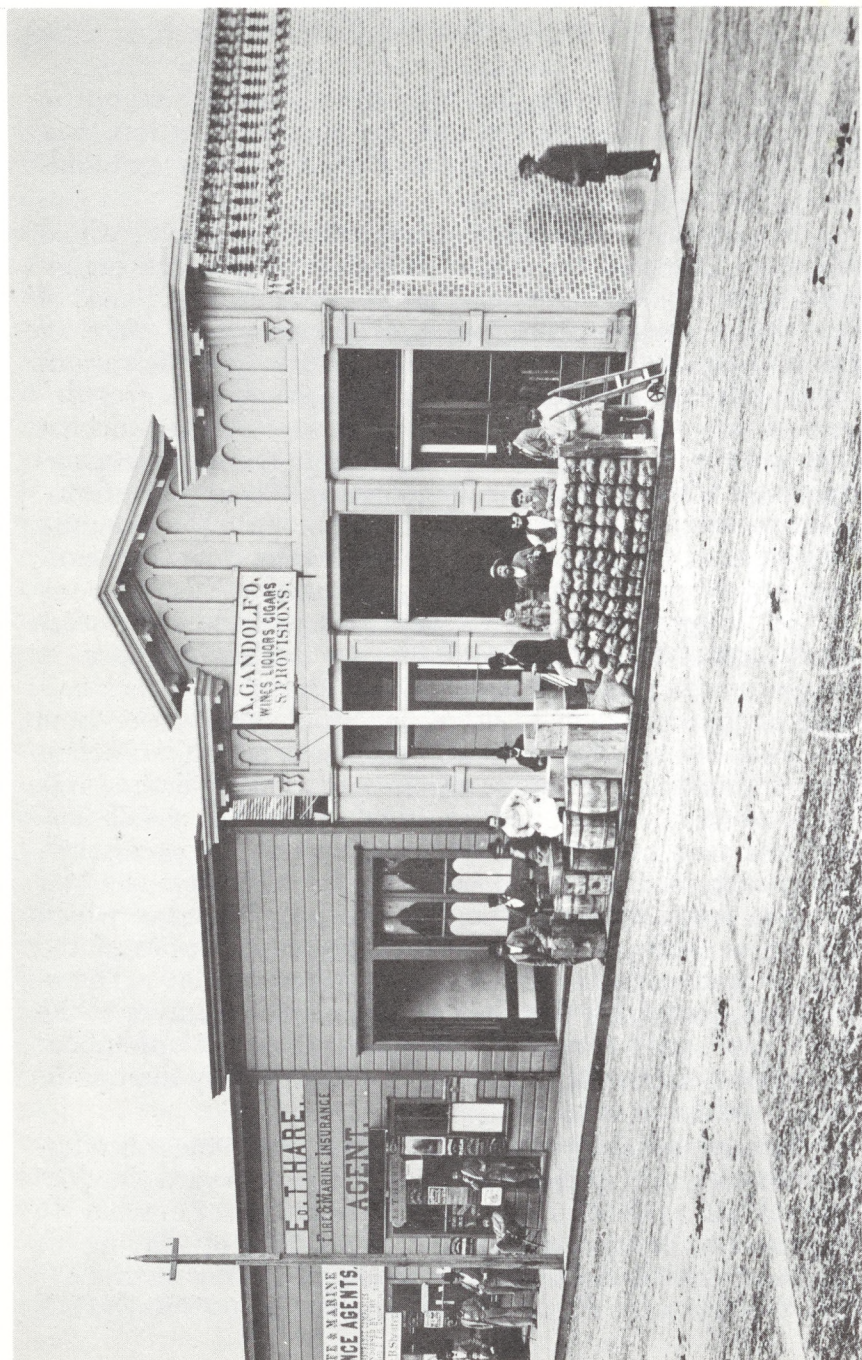
Editor *Signal*: Any further remarks on this subject after the excellent showing in favor of building made by Dr. Thacker in his first card, and his rather visionary argument against it in his last article may seem superfluous. Yet as we were not fully acquainted with all the facts in the case when we replied to his first we will, with your permission, answer his article of last week and endeavor to show, as nearly as may be, the difference between building at once and deferring it for any given period of years. Of course, it is useless for us to speculate, as the doctor has, upon what this or that locality might possibly donate at a future time; the county might receive a donation of the entire cost, or might get nothing entirely owing to circumstances then attending. We can only grasp that which is tangible, and therefore set down that now offered which is equivalent to at least \$5,000, as so much clear gain to the county, and proceed to sum up the annual expenses under the present regime as a totalling of \$2,139 per annum, which is more likely to be increased than diminished because the jail is not under the control of the supervisors and they are liable at any time to have to build or pay more than they do now and they are also liable to have prisoners of a desperate character for which an extra guard may be necessary. Nor can we make any offset against this expenditure as the doctor does of \$1,200 per annum for interest on bonds and sinking fund for we find that the said bonds were ordered to be issued and sold before the order proposing to build was determined upon and we shall consequently have to pay the interest on these bonds and provide the sinking fund whether we build or not, and that the surplus of \$6,000 which the supervisors think they will have after defraying the expenses of the present year would simply remain in the treasury until expended under the extravagant course now pursued. Nor does the fact of the supervisors accepting the offered donation and building now in any way interfere with the right of the people to remove the county seat at any future time if they desire to, nor prevent the county under such circumstances from accepting any donation which may be offered. Therefore we cannot admit the

doctor's speculative \$8,000 donation under the exciting little contest he expects to raise as any offset against our economical view of this question, but must claim the full sum of the \$5,000 donation now offered and the saving of not less than \$2,139 per annum taxes as the real difference between building now and at any future date.

In regard to the supervisor's authority to build, which still seems to trouble the doctor, in section seven of the organic act to create the County of Ventura, we find "The Board of Supervisors shall procure and provide a suitable place or places to be used as a court house and jail and for the various county officers", and that the words "procure and provide" used as they are and in the connection we find them do not seem to imply to build, but we must bear in mind in that passage that it is speaking of the immediate duties to be performed by the supervisors at their first session and by continuing the perusal of the same section we find at the close after enumerating the various duties to be performed at this first session the following language: They shall exercise such other powers and duties as are conferred by the general laws on boards of supervisors in the counties of this state. Which certainly empowers them to do all acts that other supervisors may do under the provisions of the codes in which, in section 4046, defining the powers of supervisors we find paragraph 9, "To cause to be erected and furnished a court house, jail, hospital and such other public buildings as may be necessary", and paragraph 26, "To do and perform all other acts and things required by law not in this title enumerated or which may be necessary to the full discharge of the duties of the chief executive authority of the county government". Thereby plainly indicating that they are the chief executives of the county and fully authorized to act in their best judgment for the best interest of the county, only limited by their ability and restrictions of law.

In conclusion we wish to add that this argument is offered with none other than the kindest feelings toward the doctor, and only with the view of placing the subject in what we conceived to be its true light and, if possible, of allaying his apparent fears of any snap judgment against "my district".
May 31, 1873

W. D. H.



San Buenaventura

THEN AND NOW

Our Progress and Our Prospects

General Review of the Business and Men of San Buenaventura

The Substantial Growth of a Few Years

Seven years ago aside from a few adobe houses on Main Street within the shadow of the old mission church, there were no improvements on the ground upon which our little city now stands. Then a man coming here had to understand the language spoken by the natives, hunt up Mr. Escandon or hold his peace as no one but he understood the English language in the village. Then then occasional steamer unloaded her freight from lighters as there was no wharf. Then the land about the town was a vast cattle range, and the commodities were principally tallow and hides. For years prior to that time the vaquero lassoed and drove his long-horned cattle wherever he willed up to 1864 when the drouth caused thousands of cattle to famish, breaking up many men who had all their means in stock. This disastrous season caused many to look about them for some other means of livelihood than that of keeping great herds of cattle; and some of them began to sow and plant seeds, and agriculture began to assume some importance. Then the prospect for San Buenaventura seemed poor enough; and but few cared whether the sound of the hammer and saw and the ring of the anvil, which now are so common on every hand, ever were heard. Then except the sound of the musical bells on the old church tower, there was little to disturb the stillness of the air.

Now Main Street has a dozen large buildings, prominent among which are the magnificent stores of Einstein & Bernheim and Chaffee & McKeeby, which in style and size would do credit to any city in the state. Instead of three or four merchants there are a dozen good, substantial men engaged in general merchandising: among them the above-named firms; F. Martinez & Co., Antonio Schiappa Pietra, T. Baesa and Emanuel Franz; all of whom have a first class reputation for fair dealing. Besides these are law and real estate offices and livery stables, saloons, carriage and blacksmith shops, a large furniture store, a jeweler, hotels, bakeries, restaurants, meat market, photographic gallery, paint shops, gunsmith shop, etc., etc., on either side of the street. The fine turnouts with which tourists may safely go to the springs and beach driving are kept by Massey, Barry & Jones and Hyde & Daly. Escandon's saloon is one of the old landmarks of the place. Mr. E. always keeps a bountiful supply of the very best California wine, pure and fresh from his own vineyard. Greenwood makes our lager. Bautista Ysoardy also finds many customers for his wines and beer. Indeed, nearly all our merchants keep a supply of wines; it is a staple article here. Grant & Bickford on East Main Street keep the anvil ringing merrily six days in the week. They also have an extensive coffin wareroom near their carriage shop. J. Richardson, one of the oldest Venturans, has the largest furniture store in the county, makes much of his own ware and operates his machinery with the power supplied by the Santa Ana Water Company which, by the way, is the most fairly conducted monopoly we know of and is a vast improvement as a means of getting water over the wagon of a few days ago. Our friend Wing on East Main Street does his own work in the harness line, and will give all who call on him just such goods as he recommends. C. J. Edson is our jeweler on the south side of East Main Street, and by his regulator instead of the old mission bell we know the time of day. Of the hotels the Santa Clara is now the most largely patronized, proprietor, E. M. Jones. The Oak Street Hotel, of which Mrs. M. A. Stebbins is the proprietress, is more retired but is a good house. Henry Dubois bakes our bread from flour ground at the best mill in southern California, the Santa

Paula, Blanchard & Bradley, proprietors. Short takes our pictures and excels in his line. We hope to see his redwood house supplanted by a big brick one of these days. The Destroy Brothers now have on West Main Street one of the neatest and cleanest meat markets in the state. Col. Goodwin, our punctual and accomodating postmaster, keeps at the post office anything which any reasonable person would want in the line of stationary, fancy goods or periodicals and newspapers; if he hasn't it he will send for it. Murray & Co. or Gooch or Ley, all on Main Street, are prepared to put on (in good style) paint on the many new houses which are building throughout the town. The days of the whitewash brush except for fences, ceiling and adobes are nearly numbered. Pope, on East Main Street, is infallible in the gunsmith line. Besides these, there are drug stores kept in handsome style by H. N. & S. B. Riggen and Dr. F. Delmont on East Main Street, where anything in their line can be had. Edwards & McCauley, proprietors of the hardware and tin store, also agents for Wells, Fargo & Co.'s express, have always stoves and tin ware of all kinds on hand; some of the tiny little heaters which are ample enough for our mild climate are small enough to make a child from the north go wild with delight, they are so much like a toy stove. In the long time ago the few houses each year were made of mud. Now Daly & Rodgers and Saxby & Walton sell hundreds of feet of lumber each day. Then a mud-finish on the inside was considered *au fait*; now J. P. Cutler puts on plaster and plaster of Paris in the highest style of the art. Then the stray traveler who came from the lighters strayed along the cow paths to the old mission; now in the persons of A. D. Barnard and Brice Grimes, our enterprising real estate men, strangers are met at the steamer and welcomed to our new county. Then the news of the day came through many mouths, and before it reached the lazy ears was old and stale; now a town newspaper which is well sustained by the business men of the place gives once a week, and soon will daily give the latest news from all parts.

Truly San Buenaventura, the Saint Good Fortune, is smiling loudly upon this fair land; and the city bearing her name moves on.


















September 27, 1873

Penneys

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WELCOME TO
VENTURA
THE POINSETTIA CITY

AVCO SAVINGS
AND LOAN ASSOCIATES

 MON. NOON	 WED. 7PM.	 V.F.W. 1679	 FRIDAY NOON
 WED. NOON	 BETA SIGMA PHI	 WED. 6:30PM.	 WED. 6:30 P.M.
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 THURS. NOON	 MON. 8PM.	 THUR. 8PM.	 WED 7AM

Ventura

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OF
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GLendale
FEDERAL

San Buena Ventura COUNTY SEAT

Ventura
County

1873-
1973





VENTURA
COUNTY
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
QUARTERLY

Vol. XVIII, No. 4

Summer 1973

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The Ventura County Historical Society's headquarters is the Pioneer Museum, 77 North California Street, Ventura, California. All communications should be addressed to the Society at the Pioneer Museum. There are three classes of membership: active, \$7.50 per year including husband and wife; sustaining, \$25 per year; and life, \$100. Memberships include subscription to the *Quarterly*. Additional copies are available at \$1.25 each.

The *Quarterly* is published from the Society's headquarters at the Pioneer Museum. The Society assumes no responsibility for the statements or opinions of authors of various articles. Grant W. Heil is Editor and the Staff includes Mrs. Naydean C. Baker, Mrs. Florence Dawson, Duane L. Garber, David W. Hill, Miss Linda C. Jordan, Junius H. Kellam, Charles F. Outland, R. Gird Percy, Mrs. Rafaelita Ortega Philbrick, Herbert F. Ricard, Thomas A. Roe and Richard D. Willett.

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Grant W. Heil, Editor

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By John E. Baur

Notice

The Centennial student contest produced outstanding work. The drawing was one of two pieces submitted by Pat Sharp who earned the top art award. Ellen Kent was the all-county winner; she thanks Ruth McMillan and William Duncan McMillan for information about their mother.

Dr. Bauer teaches California and Western American history at California State University, Northridge and his special interest is nineteenth century southern California.

The pictures were supplied by Ellen Kent, the Ventura County History Library, the Huntington Library and the Pioneer Museum.



Jessie V. Spencer

THE STORY OF A COUNTY PIONEER

By ELLEN ANN KENT

Jessie Spencer, valedictorian of the class of 1895 of Ventura Business College, sat with her classmates on the stage of Union Hall¹ on the evening of July 2nd. Her hands twisted into a tight knot while she listened half-attentively to Professor James' address, "Brains". She was rather sad that her parents were not included in the audience; she had not seen them for two years since she had started college, and they had moved to Oregon for health reasons. Professor James finished his address, a song was played and it was Jessie's turn to speak. She gave her valedictory, took her applause



Ventura Business College

and returned to her seat proudly. Then it was time for the Presentation of Diplomas and Gold Medals, and Judge Williams stepped up to do it. Jessie's medal was inscribed with Jessie Spencer, Average 99.6. After the ceremonies Jessie stood talking with some classmates: Irene Williams, Frank Borchard and James McGrath. They were discussing what they intended to do. Irene and Jessie were planning to be teachers, James was going to be a lawyer and Frank was yet undecided.

Jessie took the county teacher's examination on July 28th and passed it with a 79.8%. When she took it to show to Jake, the merchant in the saddle shop, he told her to pick any of the buggy whips in the shop as a prize. She looked

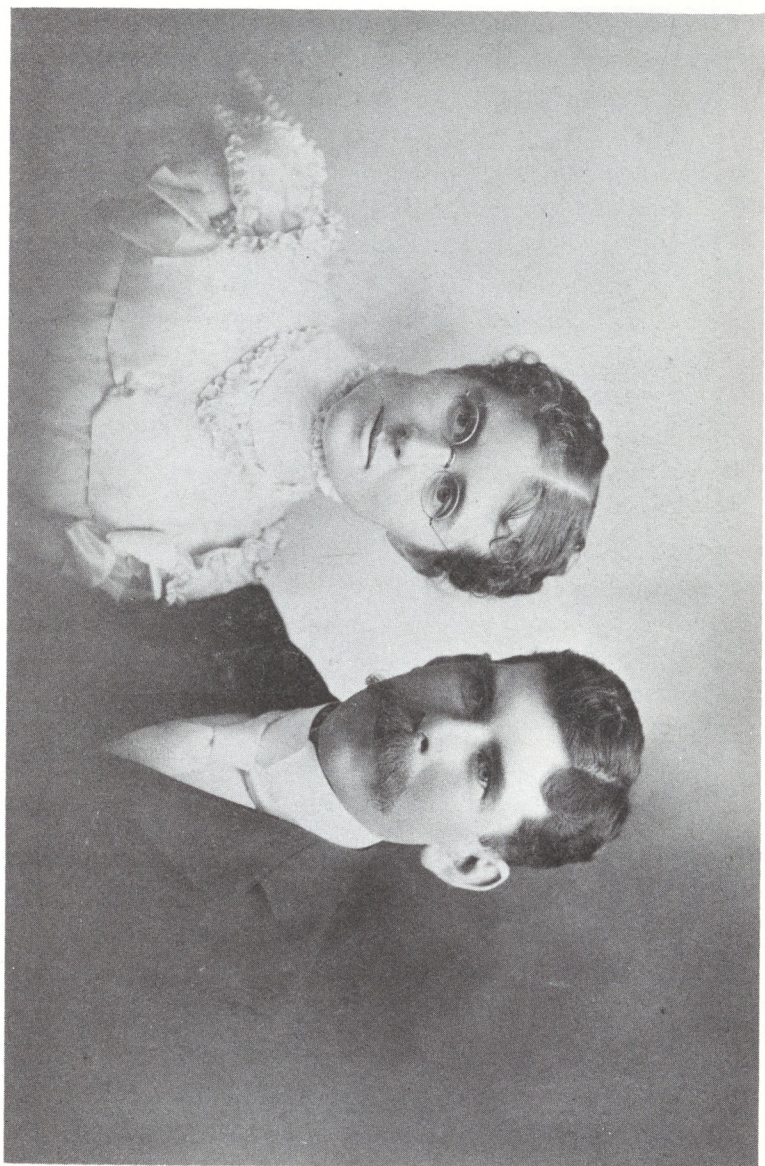
around for a while, and could not decide to get a silver one or a gold one. She finally chose the silver, being afraid that the gold might turn out to be brass. Then she learned that the gold had been real, and the silver was second in price in the shop.

It was late August when Jessie received the notification that she had gotten a job in the Cuyama Valley School. The first day of school was September 2nd; and if she left the morning of August 31st, she would reach the house of Jacinto Reyes that afternoon. Mr. Reyes was a member of the school board; and he would find someone to escort her from Matilija to Cuyama Valley for bandits were plentiful in the area, and it was not safe for even a man to travel alone.

Jessie did as instructed, and Jacinto sent his brother Pete over the mountain with her. They arrived just at sunset, and she was taken to the school first. It was set among numerous tents and wagons, and there were runners on the bottom. Jessie asked why. Pete answered that it was necessary in order to move the school with the people as they followed their stock. He said that they hitched horses to the building and hauled it along. Jessie now saw the animals grazing along the edge of the encampment and on the hillside.

She boarded with the Biechmanns for the year that she taught in the Cuyama Valley. The house, one of the few in the valley, was large and rambling with fascination for her in every room.

The next fall she moved to Bardsdale where she taught for three years. It was during this time that she met William McMillan. He was working at the Saye Brothers' Mercantile shop where she bought her clothes. She went in one day to buy some dress goods, and he was the one who waited on her. Later they met one afternoon; and when they parted, both knew a great deal more about the other than they had before. He asked her to a party once, a going away party



Jessie Spencer and Will McMillan



Wedding picture

for his sister Nellie. She wondered if she should accept an invitation the first time and finally decided to go. A few months later she knew she had made the right choice; Will was courting her. They were married in Los Angeles in the autumn of 1899. The fashions of the McMillans' day went to extremes. When Will McMillan married Jessie Spencer, she was so thin that his hands could reach around her waist.

When they returned to Santa Paula, they rented a ranch on the outskirts of town where they farmed for a year. At that time Will's father needed help in the livery business, so they quit farming in order that Will might help him. The men formed a partnership which was known as the Eagle Stables, run by McMillan and Son.

Jessie had her first child on July 29, 1900. It was a boy, and they named him Douglas Spencer McMillan. He was a lusty child with a good set of lungs which he used heartily. After the first, the rest of the children came soon. On November 7, 1901 the second one, a girl, was born; she was baptized Ruth Murrey. The third was born on February 5, 1903. It was another boy this time, baptized William Duncan.

In the fall of that year a fire broke out in a saloon in the east end of town.² The annual east winds were blowing and the fire swept through the business section of town, wiping out almost everything. Will managed to rescue all the horses by driving them out, and most of the buggies and saddles were saved. When the fire was finally out and the little family went back, only the brick walls of the stable were standing. The house was still intact, never touched by the fire.

Three years later Jessie was again pregnant. The baby was a six-months' birth, and he was so small that they kept him on the back of the wood stove. Instead of diapers and clothes, they only changed the cotton with which they had



Main Street, 1905



The McMillan family

lined the box. He was baptized Robert Clinton for two of Jessie's brothers.

In 1912 Will sold the stables and went into the insurance business. During that year he was chosen by the city council as the police judge of the City of Santa Paula. He tried civil cases and collected the taxes for the town. It was 1916 when he resigned, and the family returned to the ranch. There they raised stock and enough food for themselves and the animals. Jessie Spencer McMillan died in Santa Paula in the spring of 1933.

Post Script: Jessie McMillan's grandparents, Welcome and Malinda Fowler; her parents, Noah and Francis Spencer; she and her husband; her son, Douglas McMillan; her grand-



380 Cemetery Road

daughter, Elizabeth McMillan; and her great-grandson, Paul Donald McMillan are buried in the Santa Paula cemetery. The walls of the old livery stable still stand. They were remodeled and used for the office of the Edison Company until just recently. William McMillan joined the Presbyterian Church of Santa Paula when he was 19 years old and was the oldest continual member when he died at 93, in 1965.

NOTES

1. Union Hall had been built in 1884 to replace Spear's Hall as the town's gathering place. It was located on Santa Clara between Oak and California Streets. A frame building painted brown, its false front of 48 feet was surmounted by a flagpole; a depth of 110 feet included a vestibule, dressing rooms and a stage.
2. See "The burning of the Petrolia" in v. 1, no. 4, p. 9-11.



Cattle ranch on Santa Cruz Island



Patricia Sharp

JOSE DE LA ROSA,
EARLY VENTURA'S CENTENARIAN PRINTER

By JOHN E. BAUR

Although Jose de la Rosa's claim to being California's first printer is disputed, his popularity with Venturans of the late nineteenth century is beyond challenge. De la Rosa was born in Puebla, Mexico on January 5, 1790 and was baptized the same day in the cathedral. His parents, Jose Florencio de la Rosa and Maria Antonio Narziso de la Rosa, named him Jose Maria Telisforo de la Solida de los Santos Angeles de la Rosa.¹ His list of early vocations was almost as long as his formal name for he was for awhile a tailor, watchmaker, printer, bookbinder and editor, and was even educated for the priesthood.² When the Mexican War of Independence began, Jose left his clerical studies at the college of San Juan and served in the patriot army for three years until independence was achieved in 1821. During the war he spent some time in Mexico City's government publications office, becoming proficient at printing. It was in 1833 that General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna is said to have outfitted de la Rosa with printer's equipment and sent him to Monterey in Alta, California.³

In 1834 the former army lieutenant arrived in the capital of the Province of California as a member of the famous colony of Jose Maria Padres, which included an unusually large number of educated people for that region and era.⁴

Alta California's first printer, Agustin V. Zamorano, in 1834 conducted a press at Monterey. Although Zamorano liked to work with presses, he probably had no printing experience before his arrival in California. The physical evidence of the documents he printed indicates that while Zamorano managed his pioneer press 1834-1836, two different persons actually handled his equipment. Their typesetting



Agustín P. Zamorano.

showed no particular skill. Many letters were allowed to fill with ink, and the impressions made were often uneven.⁵ The California census of 1836 reveals that at the time Jose de la Rosa lived in Zamorano's town house at Monterey. Supposedly he was then 34; but if his birth record is accurate (and it seems to be) he must really have been 46. Henry Raup Wagner, the great California bibliographer, wondered if de la Rosa might have been kin of Rosa, a famous Puebla printer, for his family was undoubtedly prominent in that, his native city.⁶ Although de la Rosa may not have been our state's first printer, he definitely was an early one whose output appeared no later than 1844-45. George L. Harding, historian of California's early imprints, says that his work at that time was better than that of another pioneer worker, Henri Cambuston, yet not of real technical excellence. Harding does give him credit, nevertheless, for an honor that in his long life de la Rosa oddly enough never boasted about: the first printing of English in California. This feat was performed for Thomas Oliver Larkin when he was United States Consul at Monterey.⁷ In the 1844-45 period de la Rosa's name appears on nine publications still in existence.⁸

In the late Mexican era de la Rosa engaged in several activities of varying importance: perhaps least significant, he is said to have mended clothes and tinware; was known as a skilled musician; and by his moving to Sonoma in the early 1840's he became a protege of the wealthy General Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo, rancher and military commandant north of San Francisco Bay. Perhaps because of this friendship he was appointed *alcalde* of Sonoma in 1845 and became the grantee of the nearby Ulpinos Rancho, the ownership of which he successfully contested during the American period when old grants had to be validated.⁹

When the fast-moving events of the *Year of decision* changed California's destiny from Mexican to *yanqui*, de la

Rosa's friend, Vallejo, was seized in a sudden *coup* at Sonoma by the Americans who proclaimed the Bear Flag Republic. Vallejo hastily sent as his trusted messenger the aging printer to meet Captain John B. Montgomery of the U.S. Sloop-of-War Portsmouth anchored off Sausalito, and request that the American naval officer protect citizens against irresponsible actions by the rebels. Because news of the recent American declaration of war against Mexico had not as yet reached Montgomery, he told de la Rosa that he could not interfere between the contending parties.¹⁰

After the war had ended, de la Rosa remained a close friend of the prospering Vallejo family whose members called the already-aging de la Rosa Don Pepe.¹¹ He remained in Sonoma until about 1867 when he moved to Martinez in Contra Costa County. Finally, about 1879-80 de la Rosa migrated to San Buenaventura where he would spend his last years.¹²

The pioneer printer never married. After 1851 he lived with Harald L. Kamp and his family. Of Danish and Swedish ancestry, the latter had come to the United States when he was 21 in 1845, and the next year joined Colonel Jonathan D. Stevenson's New York Volunteers, Company C, and went by sea to California where the famous outfit arrived in March 1847. That spring Kamp was stationed at Sonoma. Although he engaged briefly in the search for gold in 1848, Kamp returned to Sonoma and became a storekeeper and rancher before he moved to Martinez about 1868. He had married Josefina Higuera in 1851, the year de la Rosa became his longtime friend. Eventually the old man was a sort of uncle to the Kamps' five children.¹³ The Kamps became Venturans when de la Rosa did.

During de la Rosa's last dozen years he became a familiar character in the old but recently booming community of San Buenaventura. Although he had set the first Eng-



(courtesy of the Huntington Library, San Marino, California)

Jose de la Rosa

lish in type in California, it is said that he never really mastered that language.¹⁴ Never one to hide his light under a bushel, he wrote his recollections and entrusted them to a friend for publication; but the latter lost them and de la Rosa did not rewrite them.¹⁵ Known as a "quiet, polite, and intelligent gentleman", he told visitors that he came from a family noted for longevity. His father had reached the age of 108, and he said his mother lived to be even older! Like many who attain great age de la Rosa boasted of his temperate habits. He had abstained from all intoxicants except a rare glass of wine, had never smoked, and was known for high moral standards and strict religious observances.¹⁶

An especially interesting interview was given by the old Venturan to Mary M. Bowman shortly before his death in 1891. He told her that he had known well and liked California's early Franciscan padres, particularly those of Carmel. He definitely preferred the old days and insisted as the older generation often does that, "There is no religion now. Fathers and mothers are not so careful in training children; they are not taught obedience and the commandments as when I was young. There is no privacy in these days; all that is done at night is blazoned to the world in the morning through the newspapers, and there are too many newspapers". One wonders if the aged printer realized how much irony there was in such a statement on his part! Yet de la Rosa was a cheerful man. He regretted that the strings on his guitar were broken, preventing him from singing and playing for his guest, as he had for several earlier generations under three flags.¹⁷

Mary Bowman was deeply impressed by this old man, now past the century mark. She wrote:

... time had dealt gently with him. His hair was quite abundant and not entirely gray. The upper teeth were firm and even, the eyesight dim, but his hearing good

and memory clear . . . The courtly old gentleman was a familiar figure on the streets of San Buena Ventura, under a broad-brimmed sombrero, making his way carefully by the aid of a heavy walking stick. "Buenos dias, amigo mio, buenos dias," was his cordial salutation to each passer.¹⁸

When the centennial of the birth of Don Jose approached, Venturans decided the event ought to receive proper celebration and wide publicity. The ceremonies were planned for January 1890, but inclement weather forced a postponement. On January 7 citizens gathered in Ventura, formed a committee, elected W. S. Chaffee permanent president and Stephen Bowers permanent secretary, and provided for a group of fifteen to be chosen by the president to devise ways and means for a proper observance.¹⁹ Since de la Rosa's financial condition was poor, it was decided that a purse should be presented to him at the time of his birthday ceremonies. All citizens of California were invited by Ventura's businessmen and editors to attend the celebration scheduled for early June and contribute to the fund by sending money care of the banking firm of William Collins & Son.²⁰ Their announcement was printed in journals throughout the state.²¹ One newspaper suggested that an admission fee be charged celebrants at the birthday party to fatten de la Rosa's gift purse. This was agreed to, and rates of 25 cents for regular admission and 50 cents for reserved seats were adopted.²²

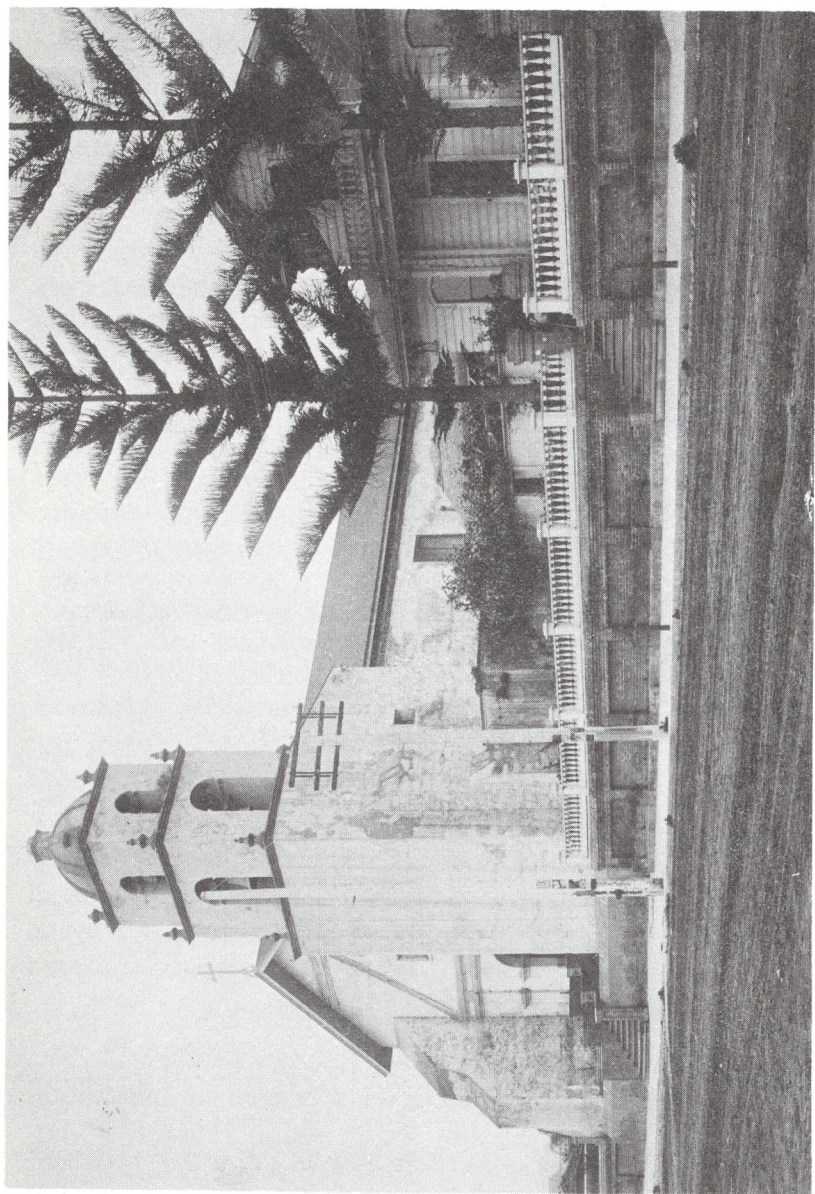
The gala event took place on Friday evening, June 6, 1890 at Ventura's Union Hall. The building was crowded; nearly all the seats had been purchased as reserved ones and others had to be improvised. Ceremonies began with the officiating of the Rev. E. W. Shurtleff, followed by music from Bartlett's orchestra and several short addresses. Among the speakers was Judge N. Blackstock who praised the generos-

ity of Venturans. Dr. S. Bowers sketched for de la Rosa's neighbors the long and full life he had lived. When the guest of honor was conducted to the stage and greeted with "tumultuous cheering", there was no need for a verbose introduction. De la Rosa bowed with traditional Latin grace; and after further musical selections, he himself offered the most unforgettable entertainment of the evening, performing a solo on his guitar:

As the voice rose in harmonious sound, broken but now and then with the tremulousness of old age, gathering power and strength as he sang, in the Spanish tongue . . . it was hard to realize that one hundred years and six months had elapsed since that voice was first heard; that the old gentleman then before the audience was over the three score and ten of the human life limit before nearly all of the other singers of the evening had been born, but who had since grown to men and women . . . As the voice died away, there arose a demand for an encore, which Don de la Rosa graciously responded to by playing an instrumental solo on the guitar. His accuracy of touch and the agility of the movements of his hands and fingers was wonderful and received several outbursts of applause.²³

Although other entertainers dressed in period costumes sang and more orators spoke, anything after the centenarian's performance would have been anticlimactic. The *Ventura Weekly Democrat* summed up the entertainment as "in every sense a complete success". Gross receipts of the evening were \$111.²⁴

Don Jose de la Rosa lived for more than another year in his beloved San Buenaventura; and although he grew feeble, until a few days before his death he was seen promenading the streets. He died at the age of 101 years, 11 months and 23 days on Monday, December 28, 1891 at the residence of his friend of forty years, H. L. Kamp.²⁵ The funeral of this



Mission San Buenaventura and Rectory

devout Roman Catholic took place the following day at Mission San Buenaventura.²⁶

One obituary described de la Rosa as "probably the oldest printer in the world".²⁷ He would have enjoyed that superlative, the validity of which cannot be proven. Ventura had other venerable residents,²⁸ but none (it seems) who had been engaged in so many activities and lived on the edge of so many important events in California's most colorful transition period. Surely no one more superbly symbolized a past society never to be forgotten.

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6. Henry Raup Wagner, "Some bibliographical notes concerning Jeronimo de Ripalda's Catecismo", *California Historical Society quarterly*, XVI, #4 (December 1937) 375.
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it was returned to Monterey where it remained at the time of the United States conquest of 1846. See Edward C. Keble, *A history of California newspapers, 1846-1858*, ed. by Helen H. Bretnor (Los Gatos, Talisman Press, 1962) 53.

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16. Ventura *Free press*, June 13, 1890, 8.
17. Mary M. Bowman, "The first printer of California", *Land of sunshine* (Los Angeles) III (June 1895) 30-31.
18. *Ibid.*, 31.
19. Ventura *Vidette*, January 11, 1890, 4.
20. San Francisco *Morning call*, May 12, 1890, 8.
21. Sacramento *Union*, May 25, 1890, 2. A check of similar notices shows a very wide coverage of this story in both cities and larger California towns.
22. Ventura *Weekly Democrat*, May 31, 1890, 3.
23. "One hundred years", Ventura *Free press*, June 13, 1890, 2. See also the Los Angeles *Times*, June 9, 1890, 4.
24. Ventura *Weekly Democrat*, June 7, 1890, 3. This is also mentioned in the Los Angeles *Evening express*, June 10, 1890, 6.

25. San Francisco *Morning call*, December 30, 1891, 8.
26. Ventura *Weekly Democrat*, January 1, 1892, 3.
27. Los Angeles *Times*, December 30, 1891, 4.
28. Juan de Jesus, 96 years old, a full-blooded California Indian, died in Ventura on November 4, 1895. Like Jose de la Rosa, he was buried from the mission. He had once been a member of the famous Indian choir there. He, too, had witnessed much history, including a tidal wave which had damaged the original mission, which he said he helped rebuild. Again like the aged printer, the Indian chorister was an intelligent man whose memory remained intact to the end. He gave evidence in court in a boundary dispute case with such precision that attorneys hesitated to cross-examine him on details! See the Los Angeles *Times*, November 9, 1895, 13.

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Eulialee McMullen

OXNARD Jubilee 75th ANNIVERSARY



Ventura County Historical Society Quarterly
Vol. XIX, No. 1

Fall 1973

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The Ventura County Historical Society's headquarters is the Pioneer Museum, 77 North California Street, Ventura, California. All communications should be addressed to the Society at the Pioneer Museum. There are three classes of membership: active, \$7.50 per year including husband and wife; sustaining, \$25 per year; and life, \$100. Memberships include subscription to the *Quarterly*. Additional copies are available at \$1.75 each.

The *Quarterly* is published from the Society's headquarters at the Pioneer Museum. The Society assumes no responsibility for the statements or opinions of authors of various articles. Grant W. Heil is Editor and the Staff includes Mrs. Naydean C. Baker, Mrs. Florence Dawson, Duane L. Garber, David W. Hill, Miss Linda C. Jordan, Junius H. Kellam, Charles F. Outland, R. Gird Percy, Mrs. Rafaelita Ortega Philbrick, Thomas A. Roe and Richard D. Willett.

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In Memoriam

HERBERT FREDERICK RICARD

1905 - 1973

"Tex" Ricard resolved many of the bibliographical questions for the *Quarterly* during the last few years; and he set up the History Library for Ventura County. His research into local history for ten years produced "Place names of Ventura County"; and he was accumulating a pioneer register at the time of his death.

The Ventura County Historical Society *Quarterly*

Grant W. Heil, Editor

Vol. XIX, No. 1

Fall 1973

Contents

Free press: OXNARD AND VICINITY

Colonia Improvement Company:

MAP OF THE TOWN OF OXNARD

Notice

The photographs of the sugar factory were printed from glass plates by David W. Hill who found them in the Eastern California Museum at Independence. They had been taken by Allen W. Ramsey, an itinerant photographer from Pasadena where he was associated with A. C. Vroman who photographed the Mohave Desert and its Indians. Ramsey moved around Southern California to end up in Lone Pine.

The *Press-Courier* furnished the picture of Henry T. Oxnard, and the Ventura County Library has the files of the *Free press*. The original plat of Oxnard is in the Recorder's office.

BEET SUGAR FACTORY.

Oxnard Brothers Willing to Erect One in
Ventura County.

A DEFINITE PROPOSITION SUBMITTED.

*A \$2,000,000 Factory Offered Provided 20,000 Acres Are
Pledged to Beets, a Factory Site and Rights of Way to
Railroad and Water Front Given.*

Shall Ventura County have a beet sugar factory? That is the proposition which is just now agitating the minds of progressive people of Ventura County. A definite proposition has been submitted by the Oxnards; and if the conditions which are most generous are promptly complied with, the project of building a \$2,000,000 factory will be immediately commenced.

That such a proposition has been made is due almost entirely to the energy and ability of Mr. A. F. Maulhardt who has been striving for sometime to bring about such a consummation; and after a conference with Mr. Henry T. Oxnard, in Los Angeles a few days ago, the following proposition was presented to him, viz: that the Oxnard Company propose to erect a \$2,000,000 beet factory in Ventura County, having a capacity of 2,000 tons of beets per day, to be ready for operation by July 1, 1898; on condition that the people of this county shall give them 100 acres of land for a factory site, somewhere within one or two miles in an easterly or southeasterly direction from the San Pedro School House, donate the right of way to from the Southern Pacific Railroad for a spur to the factory, and the right of way from the factory for a railroad and drainage ditch to the ocean, with land sufficient for a wharf, and that the growers will pledge 20,000 acres of land to beets for five years.

For the beets grown the Oxnards agree to pay \$3.25 per ton for beets of 12 percent sugar, and 25 cents per ton for each percent of saccharine matter above that; and at

Free Press

Oxnard and Vicinity

the end of five years they reserve the option of contracting for the 10,000 acres another two years at \$3.50 a ton for 12 percent beets, with 25 cents per ton for each percent over that. These figures would make the average price next year, judging from the results obtained the past two years, about \$4.75 per ton for beets. This is 75 cents per ton more than Watsonville and Salinas farmers receive for beets, and is the same rate paid at the Alamitos factory.

The Oxnards propose to expend \$1,000,000 upon the factory the first year and will get the plant in shape to handle 1,000 tons of next season's beets per day, doubling the plant and its capacity the succeeding year. They will therefore ask for but 10,000 acres to be pledged for next season's planting. There will also be expended another \$1,500,000 for beets and labor the first year, and over \$3,000,000 for the factory and for beets and labor the following year, making an expenditure in this county of \$6,000,000 within two years' time.

This is a golden opportunity to secure by far the biggest and most important enterprise that has ever been offered to Ventura County, and dull indeed will be our citizens if all the conditions are not promptly and cheerfully complied with. But it must not be supposed that the location of this factory is a sure thing, and that people here have nothing to do but to sit down and watch it building. Other places want the plant and are making strong bids for it, and the fact that Ventura County has any chance at all is owing to the superior excellence of our beetland, which

has been thoroughly tested during the past two years. Mr. Oxnard must have his answer in regard to the proposition by the first of November; and if by that time our people are not ready, the factory will be located somewhere else.

Two large land companies in Texas, owning 110,000 acres, have offered the Oxnard Company 12,000 acres of land as a bonus, and further agree that 10,000 acres additional shall be developed to beets if they will build the factory there; and a Texas railroad company has seconded this liberal offer by agreeing to give a cash bonus which represents an amount large enough to purchase all the land rights of way required for the site in Ventura County; and this Texas land is good beet land too for 400 acres of beets were raised last year and shipped to the Eddy Factory in New Mexico, yielding 14½ percent of sugar.

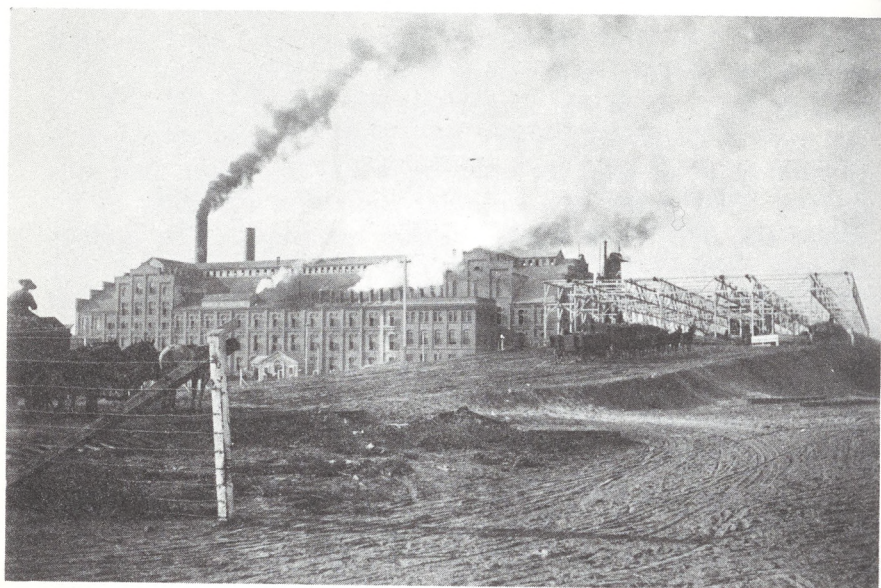
Another bid for the factory comes from Sacramento, Cal. which place has offered several acres of timber land and 10,000 acres of beets to be grown on a basis of \$3 per ton for 12 percent beets and 25 cents per ton for each percent of sugar over that. Tests which have been made there show that beets yield from 15 to 16 percent of sugar. A factory located at Sacramento would not only draw from the surrounding country, but beets grown 300 miles up or down the river could be dumped into barges and with very little expense landed at the factory. Hence if one territory would find some other produce more profitable to it than growing beets, the factory could resort to other territories along the river, and have its beets shipped for miles at a very nominal cost. This is not the case in Ventura County as sea shipping is not so readily, and railroad shipping from any land capable of producing beets outside of Ventura and Carpinteria Valleys would be out of the question as the freight would make the price so low for the grower that he could not afford to grow them. A few large land owners of San Luis Obispo have offered this company a bonus of 5,000 acres of land if they would erect a factory there.

Again viewing the fact that this company offers to build without virtually an acre of land of their own to fall back on for the raw material, a thing that has never been known for a sugar manufacturer to do in the United States, their offer

is certainly remarkably generous. The Alameda Factory built last year with a capacity of only 250 tons secured 1160 acres of land as a bonus from the people and a tract of land equal in size at a nominal price, and beets at \$3.25 per ton for 12 percent. The Chino Factory received a bonus of 2500 acres of land for erecting a 300 ton plant, and was deeded 2200 more at a nominal figure on agreeing to increase the 300 ton plant to an 800 ton plant. The Salinas Factory secured the title to some 25,000 acres of land in the immediately vicinity of where the plant is being erected at a very nominal price which they knew would increase to the value of \$50 per acre over the price paid for it under their proposition when they erected the plant, thus assuring them a handsome bonus and land to procure raw material from should the other land owners decline to grow it.

This company asks from Ventura people no land bonus or transfer of land to them at a nominal price but in return for the factory requires a contract for five years at \$3.25 for 12 percent with 25 cents additional for each percent over 12, and the option to renew this contract for two years longer at \$3.50 per ton for 12 percent and 25 cents for each additional percent over 12; but in event the Hawaiian Islands are annexed (which Mr. Oxnard considers would lay the California sugar producer at the mercy of the Hawaiian manufacturer) the price to be paid is \$3 per ton for 12 percent with a 25 cent additional for each percent over 12. Even at this figure the beets grown the last two years here would average \$4.50 per ton, still 50 cents more than the Watsonville and Salinas companies are paying.

The percentage basis of paying for beets is by far the better for the beet producers of Ventura County as it is well known from chemical results as well as from practical tests made that our land will produce a beet, when properly cultivated, that will be worth more than \$4 per ton. Again contracting at the basis of so much a ton is a poor way to induce growers to take care of their crops as a thin stand of beets invariably produces a large tonnage with a low sugar percent. Again a good stand of beets and a fair cultivation will produce a large tonnage with a percent that will average 18, judging from past tests; and the alkali lands which will not



Haulage

yield much more than 10 or 12 tons per acre will produce a beet of about 22 percent which, on the basis offered in the proposition, will be \$5.75 per ton for the first five years.

The following gives close figures of the cost of producing one acre of beets when practically entered into as in the regular beets fields:

The expense of good thorough plowing is \$1.75; harrowing and the care thereafter till planting, \$1.50; planting and seed, \$2.25; thinning, \$4. (although considerable thinning is done in Chino and other beet territories as low as \$2.50) hoeing, \$1; cultivating, \$1, where properly managed; making altogether \$11.25. The hauling and topping per acre depends on the tonnage, being \$1 per ton where the factory is not more than four miles away, making the total expense of an acre producing 10 tons at \$21.25, one producing 20 tons \$31.25. Where the tonnage is light, it is safe to say from past results that the price is invariably from \$5.50 upwards; and where it reaches 20 tons an acre, it is from \$4.50 upwards, leaving a profit of \$34.75 in the former case per acre and about \$70 in the latter. In the event of a factory here the

grower will save \$1.20 freight, 50 cents hauling and 30 cents handling. In several instances bean land has run as high as 30 ton per acre with a percentage of about 17, and in one instance as high as 36 tons per acre was grown. The highest percent of sugar from beets grown this year in Ventura Co. was 30½ percent the field averaging 26-10 percent. Many fields averaged 21, 22 and 23 percent. One field produced 30 tons with 18½ percent sugar, and would have netted \$126 close to a factory. The average percent of purity has run from 80 to 84 percent daily.

The tests made at the laboratory at Montalvo have shown a daily average of 18, 19 and 20 percent sugar until the last two weeks, at which time owing to the fact that A. F. Maulhardt endeavored to please many of the growers by allowing them for convenience sake to haul beets which were not ready, the tests ran down to a little below 17 percent for several days. But now at this writing the daily average is a trifle below 18.

In event of heavy rains no material damage is done to the beets as they can be harvested and siloed and then could be hauled from the silo as the factory could use them without any loss in sugar percentage. In the event that it is deemed advisable to silo beets, the company agrees to pay the expense of the extra handling by hauling them to silo. The expense of a silo is nominal as it merely a clear space of ground on which the beets are piled ten feet wide and four feet high and then covered up with material that will not lay close to them, such as corn stalks or tree brush.

The beet crop can be relied upon with a great deal more certainty in every year than any other produce, and in the fall no danger from early rains is feared. Besides the grower has a ready market and it is the only produce, generally speaking, which the grower knows on the day of planting what his price will be, whether he is producing the article at a loss or at a gain. He need not fear the destruction of his produce by fire, nor has he any storage bills to pay or rottage to stand or does he find it necessary to purchase new bags. As a whole the sugar beet industry should be pushed forth by our American people, as at present we are spending \$100,000,000 for sugar which goes to pay foreign

labor and enterprise.

It not only gives land owners an opportunity to rotate their crops; but sugar culture is the death of noxious weeds, and morning glory finds a bitter enemy in sugar beets. It is a known fact that alkalai land which will scarcely produce grain will produce a rich sugar beet, yet the tonnage will not exceed much more than from 8 to 12 tons; but the sugar beet takes a large portion of the salt and alkali out of the ground and after a few years under beet culture, the same will be found profitable land for the culture of other crops.

The sugar plant if erected in this county will not only add \$3,000,000 to our revenue; but it will put a large acreage of the bean growing territory to beet culture, which will assure a better price for beans as the production will be diminished and the consumption to some extent increased. It will not only stimulate the market for beans, but likewise the horse market which is now at bedrock. It will do likewise with the hay and grain market, making a larger consumption and diminishing the field of production. Nor will it be only these industries that will reap the benefit. The merchants, the bankers, even the newspaper men will receive their share as the population will be increased two thousand more, and the circulation of nearly three million dollars annually for the labor and produce of only about one-tenth of the land under cultivation in this county which now scarcely realizes a quarter of a million. The oil fields will receive an impetus as it will provide a new and steady field for the consumption of quite a quantity of oil.

One important point regarding the Oxnard Company which should not be overlooked by farmers, and especially prospective beet growers, is the fact that the Oxnards are successful and practical sugar manufacturers of large experience and understand thoroughly how to treat various juices and also to handle impure water. If a location is secured here, they will probably be obliged to pipe water from the mountains which will be very expensive and should be considered by the people in relation to their liberal offer.

If a factory is compelled for want of proper management to shut down every few days during the run for repairs, a great deal of trouble and considerable loss is in-

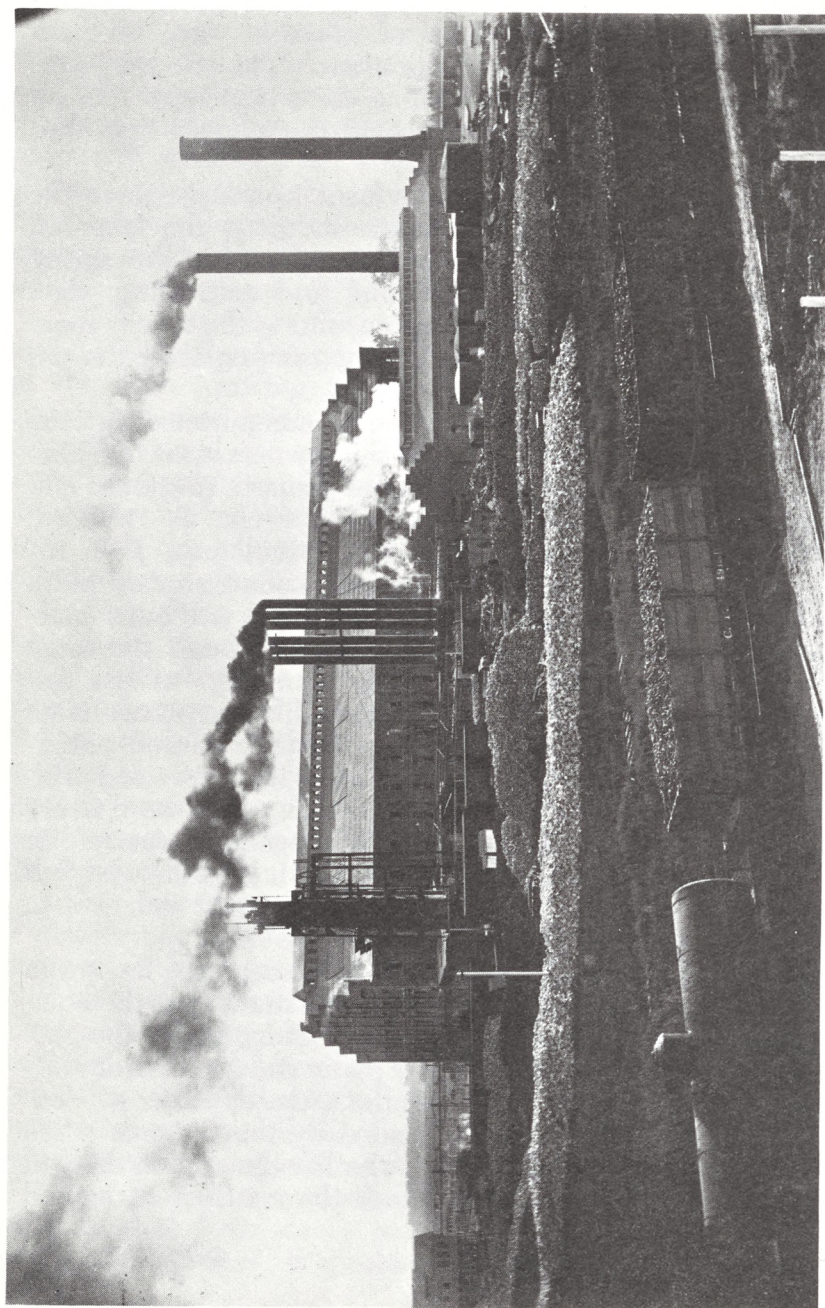
curred by growers. With such a plant as the one contemplated under the management of practical men, all such cause for aggravation would be obviated. The company propose to have railway and unloading conveniences so that no grower would be compelled to haul beets more than five miles, at the farthest.

A sugar factory gives employment to a large force the year round and is not a spasmodic industry, the labor all being crowded into the harvesting season. In the spring there is planting, weeding, thinning and cultivating; then comes harvesting and manufacturing; and in the winter there is cleaning at the factory, and plowing and preparing the soil for the next crop in the field.

Wednesday evening of this week, a committee composed of the following business men and land owners went to Chino and met Henry T. Oxnard and James Oxnard, president and vice-president of the Oxnard Company, viz: T. R. Bard, E. P. Foster, Jacob Maulhardt, A. F. Maulhardt, J. B. Alvord, D. T. Perkins, D. W. Thompson, Leon Lehman, Mark McLaughlin and T. A. Rice. The committee was most courteously received and after being shown through the large factory at Chino, all returned to the Van Nuys at Los Angeles where satisfactory and business-like contracts were drawn up. The members of the committee returned yesterday and they are to a man most thoroughly impressed with the importance of the enterprise and will put forward every effort to bring the factory here. The contract was left in charge of Messrs. T. R. Bard and A. F. Maulhardt, who will immediately circulate it among the farmers and endeavor to have all conditions fulfilled by November 1st.

Mr. E. P. Foster, a member of the committee having in charge the proposed beet sugar factory, states that the committee will meet at Hueneme Saturday at 1 p.m. for the purpose of considering sites for the plant and on Monday afternoon the committee will meet the Oxnards either at Ventura or Hueneme as may be decided by the Oxnards when it will be settled definitely as to whether the committee will undertake the task of carrying out the contract as agreed upon.

—October 22, 1897



Freight

Beet Factory Certain.

Ventura Farmers Know a Good Thing When They See It.

It is now definitely settled that Ventura County is to have a beet sugar factory of 2,000 ton per day capacity, the largest plant of the kind in the West. Messrs. H. T. and James Oxnard, President and Vice-President of the Oxnard Company, together with their sugar expert and engineer have been in the county all week and have expressed themselves as more than pleased at the outlook and the manner in which farmers have taken hold of the matter.

A mass meeting was held at Hueneme Wednesday and was largely attended when the form of contract was read and its provisions explained by Mr. Oxnard and by members of the committee who helped draft them. The agreement seems a fair one although there are some sections which undoubtedly might be improved upon from the farmer's standpoint.

When signers were called for, the landowners readily responded and before evening 7,000 of the required 10,000 acres were pledged to beets. Nearly all those who have been growing beets this season wished to double their acreage, a very good indication that there is profit in beet culture. We understand that more than the required amount of land was secured yesterday. Mr. Oxnard stated that he was fully satisfied and that a factory will positively be built.

The matter of procuring a site and the necessary rights of way to the railroad and to the ocean was quickly settled by placing a levy of 10 cents per ton, or sufficient to raise the necessary amount which is estimated at about \$20,000, on the beets, to be collected within the first five years. The fund thus raised is to be fixed and controlled by the farmers' committee, and just enough will be raised by the committee for the required purpose. A note to guarantee the amount was drawn up and immediately signed by about twenty wealthy landowners when Messrs. Foster and Collins of the Ventura banks agreed to advance the money necessary. The factory site has not yet been made public.

The Messrs. Oxnard Bros. are most affable gentlemen and made a good impression with the farmers. They speak in glowing terms of the fertility and wonderful resources of this county, and commend the intelligence and skill of the farmers. It requires much care and patience to properly grow beets; and where farmers have been growing grain exclusively, it often requires a generation to teach them how to grow beets. But bean growing is a step advanced from grain growing and our farmers are well prepared to grow beets successfully.

—October 29, 1897

OUR SUGAR FACTORY.

Deal Consumated and the Plant Is Secured.

WORK ALREADY BEGUN.

*History of the Movement—Some of the Men Who Helped
Bring It—Great Credit Due Mr. A. F. Maulhardt.*

The important papers which sealed the fate of the Ventura County Beet Sugar Factory were drawn up and duly signed, sealed and delivered Saturday evening; and subsequent developments only go to demonstration that the men with whom our people have been dealing are not only meaning what they say, but are alive to the importance of their undertaking and that they are farsighted enough to perceive that this great venture is going to enhance the value of property of that immediate vicinity as well as prove a great benefit to the entire county.

Some two years ago, a few of our progressive farmers conceived the idea of trying their hand at beet culture; and having already a proficiency in cultivating and bringing up the standard of the soil through their long experience as bean growers, they found little trouble in changing. A representative of the Chino beet sugar factory visited this region at that time; and after making a little investigation of the soil,

he decided to send Mr. Hache, the field superintendent of the factory, up to thoroughly examine the soil; and he was so favorably impressed with the showing made that he induced a number of farmers to put some of their land in beets; and although they were comparatively ignorant of beet culture and loath to undertake the matter, yet they were finally induced to try it merely as an experiment. And so some 100 acres were pledged, ranging from 1 to 5 acres and scattered all over the valley. But even those who agreed to plant would not promise to deliver the crop when grown, but only were willing to guarantee enough for testing purposes. In the fall of '96 when the crop should have been in readiness, the factory at Chino sent word that they desired to have the beets shipped at a certain time. But lo and behold, only three farmers delivered their loads of beets to Mr. Hache and a chemist who were at Montalvo to test the product. The showing made by these three loads was soon noised abroad, and the next morning the railroad people were swamped with beets for it was found that one load averaged 19 percent saccharine matter while the other two loads went to 20 percent and 23 percent. So the Chino people had no trouble in obtaining all the beets to be had in Ventura County at that time.

The experiment proved so successful that the farmers very readily agreed to plant 1000 acres for the season of '97; and during the past year that crop has been shipped and from all the land, good, bad and indifferent, there has been an average production of over eighteen tons per acre with an average of 18 percent of saccharine matter, some crops going as high as 30 and 31 percent saccharine matter.

In this way the farmers demonstrated to their own satisfaction the ability of the soil to produce beets as well as the quality of beets produced, and they have also acquired much practical knowledge of beet culture. So satisfactory were the experiments that when some enterprising farmers advocated taking steps to secure the location of a beet sugar factory in Ventura County, the farmers one and all were in hearty accord.

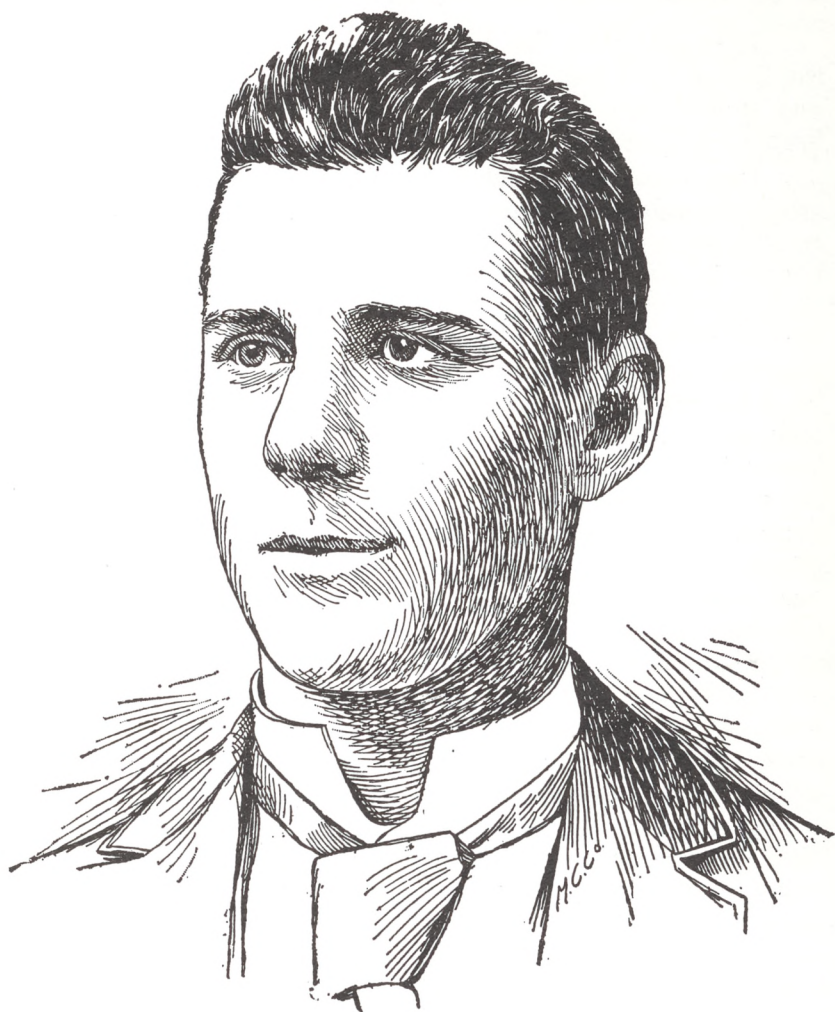
The great plant has now become an assured thing, and our farmers are pledged to put in 10,000 acres for the next

season and 10,000 more the following season; the one hundred acres of land for a factory site have been secured and deeded, and the other provisions of the offer made by Oxnard Brothers have been met to the entire satisfaction of these two gentlemen; and the first load of gravel for the gigantic enterprise was actually hauled to the factory site on Monday and next week at least fifty teams and over one hundred men will be at work on the plant; and the work will be pushed to completion as rapidly as possible, so that by July 1, 1898 the Ventura County Beet Sugar Factory will be in readiness to handle the enormous crop of beets grown that season; and then there will begin such an era of prosperity as the oldest inhabitant has never dreamed of beholding.

PRIME MOVERS

Too much credit cannot be given the men who were so ready and willing to leave their business affairs and to spend time and money in trying to secure this great boom for Ventura County. Messrs. J. E. Borchard, J. B. Alvord, Jacob Maulhardt, T. A. Rice, Mark McLaughlin, D. T. Perkins, H. K. Snow, Jr., Major Carr, A. Levy, L. Lehmann, E. P. Foster, James Leonard, J. S. Collins and others equally as well known were indefatigable in their efforts to bring the project to a successful culmination.

While these gentlemen have accomplished almost a Herculean task, yet it is but just and fair to state that to Mr. Albert F. Maulhardt falls the lion's share of a credit for the present state of affairs, at least it was through his persistent and unswerving efforts that such a condition of affairs was made possible. It was Mr. Maulhardt who encouraged, and even entreated the farmers to experiment with the beets, and he it was who would go to the Chino factory people and plead with them to give our farmers some inducement. Then he would return home again and himself put in a crop of beets, and he has been fostering the beet sugar factory idea from its earliest incipency; and the farmers are loud in their words of praise and commendation of Mr. Maulhardt's determined efforts, and they do not hesitate on all sides to give him great credit for the part he has taken in the almost superhuman efforts which have resulted in the procuring of the splendid plant.



ALBERT F. MAULHARDT.

The *Free press*, joining in these words of praise, takes great pleasure in presenting its many readers with what is pronounced an excellent likeness of Mr. A. F. Maulhardt.

—November 26, 1897

Beet Sugar Factory.

Interesting Facts and Figures Regarding the Big Plant.

It is said that the Ventura beet sugar factory will be the largest beet sugar factory in the world now in operation, and it will only be exceeded in size by the factory Claus Spreckles is putting up at Salinas in Monterey County.

Five mammoth brick buildings on concrete foundations are to be immediately erected, all to be of the best fireproof construction with all floors of concrete and iron and roof trusses of steel, covered with galvanized iron. The main building is to be 400 by 130 feet, three stories in height. It will contain 182 iron columns inside and seventy-eight Z-bar columns in the exterior walls. In addition to this, there will be a warehouse 300 by 100 feet, a powerhouse 250 by 90 feet, a commodious office and laboratory building and a large building devoted to the preparation of lime. For the burning of lime there are to be provided two mammoth upright kilns with a capacity of 360 tons of lime rock at each charge, and four rotary kilns for reburning the lime that has been once used by a special process controlled by the Oxnard Company.

The entire weight of these enormous buildings and kilns will be borne by the concrete piers without granite caps, some of the piers having to sustain a load of 250 to 300 tons each. This is a new departure in heavy construction for which the precedents in this country are the bridge piers erected this year on the same plan by the Southern California Railway, which have demonstrated the effectiveness and value of concrete for the distribution of weight directly applied.

The contracts call for the completion of the buildings inside of six months, and Contractor Leonardt will have a force of two or three hundred men employed. He has already begun the excavation with a small force of teams and men, which will be immediately reinforced by as many men as can be crowded on.

The Southern Pacific Company has begun work on the four miles of track to connect the factory with the station at

Montalvo, and a piledriver is at work on the bridge crossing the Santa Clara River. The plan of the switches and tracks to provide for the convenient disposition of incoming materials and outgoing products is admirable and a model of good engineering. The entire works will be the finest of the kind ever erected in America. They have a capacity of 1,000 tons of beets daily the first year, with arrangements for their immediate enlargement to 2,000 tons, daily capacity. Compared with other factories thus far erected: the capacity of the Chino factory is 800 tons daily; that at Alamitos and at Grand Island, Neb. and Norfolk, Neb., 350 tons each; Lehi, Utah, 300 tons; and Eddy, N. M., 100 tons.

All the machinery of the Hueneme factory is to be of the latest and best American manufacture, and adapted to the most improved processes. The most notable of recent improvements is in the extraction of all the sugar from the molasses, so practically no particle of saccharine matter is wasted, and in the use of the lime over and over again by reburning. An interesting feature of the plant is an immense ice-making machine of 100 tons daily capacity. To dispose of the waste and refuse of the factory a long pipe or sewer, four miles long, will be built to the ocean. The beets will be delivered direct from the wagons to the slicing machines by an ingenious automatic device.

A conception of the magnitude of the works may be formed from the estimate that the machinery and steel beams and columns will amount to 5,000 carloads, and some of the parts are of such extraordinary dimensions and weight that special cars must be built to transport them from the East. The volume of concrete in the foundations is estimated at over 200,000 cubic feet in addition to the sidewalls, some of which are expected to be formed of the same material.

It must be admitted, however, that these pioneers in the American beet sugar industry are displaying creditable enterprise in putting up such an immense factory in this section which will give employment to a very large number of people, and will be of advantage not only to those who are engaged in raising beets but also to the bean growers of Ventura County for the reason that a large amount of bean

land will be taken out of the market, thus lessening the supply of that product and securing better prices than those that now prevail.

—December 3, 1897

The Sugar Beet Question.

The statement contained herein regarding the growing of sugar beets are the results of reading literature upon that subject and of conversation with men of experience. There is nothing new nor original in them. In the judgment of the writer, the growing of sugar beets is the coming agricultural industry in the United States. Agriculture makes but slow progress in its march from the primitive tillage of the semi-barbarous tribes to the more enlightened cultivation of the more profitable products of the soil by enlightened, progressive farmers. The growth of the sugar beet industry in the United States has been a remarkably slow one. With our hundreds of millions of acres of land adapted to the growth of this profitable crop there are in the United States today but seventeen factories manufacturing beet sugar, and only sufficient acreage planted to sugar beets to satisfy their requirements. With unlimited quantities of land suitable to its growth, with money seeking investment in 3½ percent securities and paying a premium to get them, we paid Europe in 1896 twenty-five millions of dollars for beet sugar. We imported in the same year from all sources of all kinds of sugar, 1,739,330 tons. During the sixteen years beginning in 1880 and ending in 1896 we raised but one-tenth of the amount of sugar which we consumed. On the remainder which was imported we paid a varying duty, in many cases equal to the first cost of the sugar abroad. The consumption of sugar in this country is steadily growing, owing to various causes: first, its gradual cheapening; second, the increase in population; third, its use in the manufacture of canned and preserved fruits. We consume more sugar per capita than any other people in the world, and the ratio of increase per capita is from six to seven percent per annum. Under these circumstances it must be apparent to the most careless student of these figures that it would take a great

MAP
of the Town of
O X N A R D

*Located in Subdivisions 28 & 29 of
Rancho El Rio de Santa Clara o
La Colonia.*

VENTURA COUNTY CALIFORNIA

Property of the
COLONIA IMPROVEMENT COMPANY

Surveyed January 1898

Scale 200 feet to 1 inch

Magnet Variation 14° 15' E.

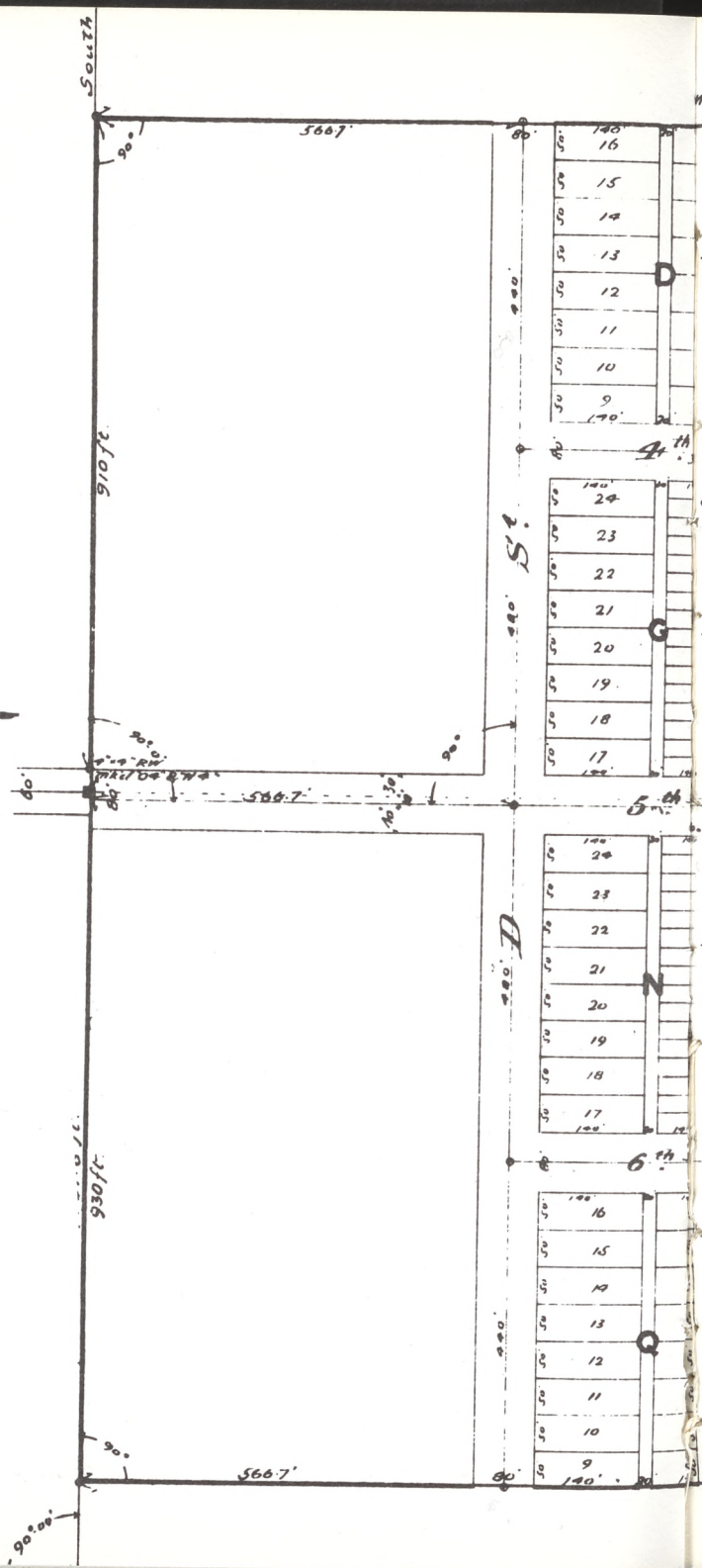
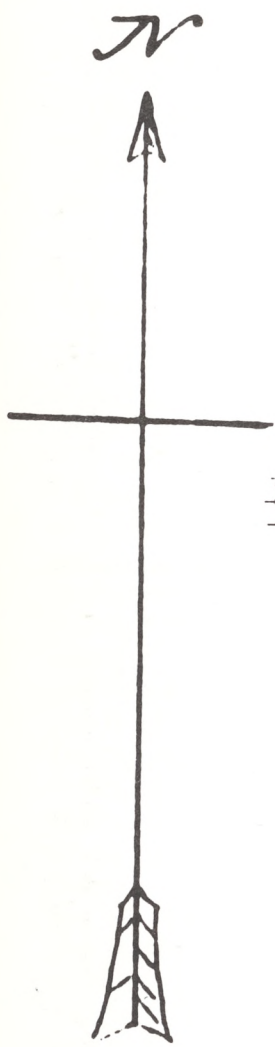
Survey N: 576

*Represents Concrete Monuments.
Represents Iron Pipe Standards.*

*Geo. C. Power.
County and Licensed
Surveyor.*

*Recorded at the Request of J. A. Driftell
April 21st A D 1898 at 25 min. past
4 o'clock P M in Book 3 page 47 of
Miscellaneous (Maps) Records of
Ventura County, California*

*Al W Browne
County Recorder
By Jno. B. Wagner
Supt.*



Subdivision 29

010.

930

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R O A D

S A V I E R S

Subdivision 8.2

Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Colonia Improvement Company, a corporation, establishing the townsite of the town of Oxnard, and adopting the official map thereof

At the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Colonia Improvement Company, a corporation, held in its office at San Buena Ventura, Ventura County, California, at ten o'clock A.M. on the 21st day of April 1898, at which meeting four of the five members of the Board of Directors of said Company were present and voted, the following resolution was on motion of Director J. W. Andrews seconded by Director E. R. Bell, by unanimous vote of said Directors present adopted, and was thereafter duly recorded in the records of said corporation, to-wit:

Resolved, that the real property owned by the Colonia Improvement Company, a corporation, situate in the County of Ventura, State of California, and described as follows, to-wit:

All that part of subdivisions 28 & 29 of the Rancho El Rio de Santa Clara & la Colonia, as said subdivisions of said Rancho are designated and delineated on that certain map entitled "Map of the Rancho El Rio de Santa Clara & la Colonia, partitioned by order of District Court, First Judicial District of California" in cause entitled "Thomas A. Scott et al, vs Rafael Gonzales et al" and filed in said cause in the Office of the County Clerk of Ventura County, California,

Commencing at a copper tack in lead center in concrete monument set in West line of the Saviers road at a point distant South two thousand four hundred and eighty five and six tenths (2485.6) feet from a rock marked "S 232" and set at the North-east corner of said subdivision N° 28 of said rancho, and distant North two thousand eight hundred and eight and five tenths (2808.5) feet from a two inch iron pipe three feet long set at the intersection of the North line of the Winkley road with said West line of the Saviers road, and distant North ten feet from the intersection of the center line of 5th Street in the town of Oxnard, hereinafter named, as now laid out and hereby established, with the West line of said Saviers road; and running thence along the said West line of the Saviers road North nine hundred and ten (910) feet to an iron pipe two inches in diameter and driven three feet in the ground for the North-east corner of said town; thence at right angles West along the North line of Block B. Cont. D of said town of Oxnard two thousand and forty six and seven tenths (2046.7) feet; at three hundred and forty (340) feet one inch iron pipe two feet long set at North end of center line of A Street of said town; at three hundred and eighty (380) feet the North-east corner, and at six

hundred and eighty (680) feet the North-west corner of said Block B; at seven hundred and twenty (720) feet one inch iron pipe two feet long set at the North end of the center line of B Street of said town; at seven hundred and sixty (760) feet the North-east corner and at one thousand and sixty (1060) feet the North-west corner of said Block C; at eleven hundred (1100) feet copper tack in lead center of concrete monument set at North end of center line of C Street of said town; at eleven hundred and forty (1140) feet the North-east corner and at fourteen hundred and forty (1440) feet the North-west corner of said Block D; at fourteen hundred and eighty (1480) feet one inch iron pipe two feet long set at the North end of the center line of D Street of said town; at two thousand and forty six and seven tenths (2046.7) feet two inch iron pipe three feet long set for the North-west corner of said town in West line of lands of this company, the same being the east line of lands of Henry T. Oxnard; thence South along said West line of lands of this company eighteen hundred and forty (1840) feet, at eight hundred and eighty (880) feet a four inch by four inch redwood post marked O-4 and H-9, at nine hundred and ten (910) feet copper tack in lead center of concrete monument set ten (10) feet North of the West end of the center line of said Sth Street; at eighteen hundred and forty (1840) feet two inch iron pipe three feet long set for the south-west corner of said town of Oxnard; thence East along the South line of Blocks Q, R and S of said town of Oxnard two thousand and forty six and seven tenths (2046.7) feet; at six hundred and sixty six and seven tenths (366.7) feet one inch iron pipe two feet long set at the South end of the center line of said D Street; at six hundred and six and seven tenths (606.7) feet the South-west corner and at nine hundred and and six and seven tenths (906.7) feet the South-east corner of said Block Q; at nine hundred and forty six and seven tenths (946.7) feet a copper tack in ^{lead} center of concrete monument set at the South end of the center line of said C Street; at nine hundred and eighty six and seven tenths (986.7) feet the South-west corner and at twelve hundred and eighty six and seven tenths (1286.7) feet the South-east corner of said Block R; at thirteen hundred and twenty six and seven tenths (1326.7) feet a one inch iron pipe two feet long set at the South end of the center line of said B Street; at thirteen hundred and sixty six and seven tenths (1366.7) feet the South-west corner and at sixteen hundred and sixty six and seven tenths (1666.7) feet the South-east corner of said Block S; at seventeen hundred and six and seven tenths (1706.7) feet a one inch iron pipe two feet long set at the South end of the center line of said A Street; at two thousand and forty six and seven tenths (2046.7) feet two inch iron pipe three feet long set for the South-east

corner of said town in said West line of the Saviers road; thence North along said West line of the Saviers road nine hundred and thirty (930) feet to the point of commencement, he and the same is, hereby laid out, designated and established as the town of Oxnard; and Resolved,

That that portion of the Map entitled "Map of the town of Oxnard, located in Subdivisions 288 & 29 of the Rancho El Rio de Santa Clara o la Colonia, Ventura County, California" made by Geo C. Thuer County and licensed Surveyor and further designated "Survey N^o 576" contained within the exterior boundaries of said town hereinabove particularly described be and the same is hereby adopted as the official map of said town of Oxnard; and Resolved,

That that the streets delineated upon said map and designated respectively "A Street", "B Street", "C Street", "D Street", "4th Street", "5th Street", "North 5th Street", "South 5th Street" and "6th Street" and the twenty foot alleys therein delineated and extending through the center of Blocks B, C, D, G, I, L, N, Q, R and S as therein delineated and designated (but no other streets, alleys, lanes, places, roads, highways or other property or easements) be, and the same are hereby dedicated to public use as public streets and alleys of said town as the same are so delineated and designated upon said map; and Resolved,

That a copy of these resolutions, duly certified by the President and Secretary and attested by the seal of said Colonia Improvement Company, be inclosed upon the margin of said official map, and that the President of said corporation do forthwith file said official map for record and cause the same to be recorded in the office of the County Recorder of said Ventura County.

The undersigned J. A. Driffell, the President, and T. E. Walker, the Secretary of the Colonia Improvement Company, a corporation, hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of a series of resolutions duly adopted by the Board of Directors of said company at its regular monthly meeting, held at San Buena Ventura, California, (its principal place of business) on Thursday, the 21st day of April, 1898, and that said resolutions as so adopted were recorded and are now of record in the minutes of said meeting of said Board of Directors.

Attest:

T. E. Walker

Secretary of said Colonia
Improvement Company.

J. A. Driffell
President of said Colonia
Improvement Company.

many years for the production of sugar to catch up with the consumption if importation were entirely stopped. We pay over one hundred millions of dollars annually for foreign sugar, which money should be kept among our own people and distributed between the farmer and his laborers, and the manufacturer and his help. Sugar beets can be grown upon almost any kind of soil and in almost any climate. They grow them in the temperature regions of Europe, as well as in the rigorous climate of Sweden. With a price of \$4 per ton at or adjacent to the farm they are the most profitable crop that the farmer can raise. The profits from the growth of sugar beets are enormous. I venture to say that there is not in the County of Ventura a piece of farming land which, destitute of improvements and in its primitive state (and by that I mean without orchards, vineyards or similar betterments) will pay interest for a period of ten years upon fifty dollars an acre; yet a very great amount of these same lands will yield a neat revenue of \$25.00 per acre per year, or 50 percent per annum, upon the invested capital. When it is considered that the majority of the farming lands adapted to the growth of sugar beets are today worth from \$100 to \$250 per acre, the profits from the growth of sugar beets would amount to from 25 to 50 percent per annum upon the value of the land. My agricultural brethren, if you do not embrace your opportunity, you are making a very grave mistake. I do not undertake to prophecy that this condition of affairs will last; it cannot last. With the sugar-beet grower making from 50 to 75 percent per annum and the sugar beet manufacturer making from 20 to 80 percent per annum, there is too wide a margin for profit and too inviting a field for competition not to bring about a reduction both in the profit to the farmer and in the profit to the manufacturer. But it will be many years before the margins are materially reduced, and during those years you have your opportunity. If you do not embrace it, the consequences of your folly shall be upon your own heads. That the raising of cereals should always be a popular pursuit among agriculturalists is not to be wondered at. The simplicity of its processes and its freedom from exacting toil, or care or study commend themselves to those who consider that the world owes them a living and that out

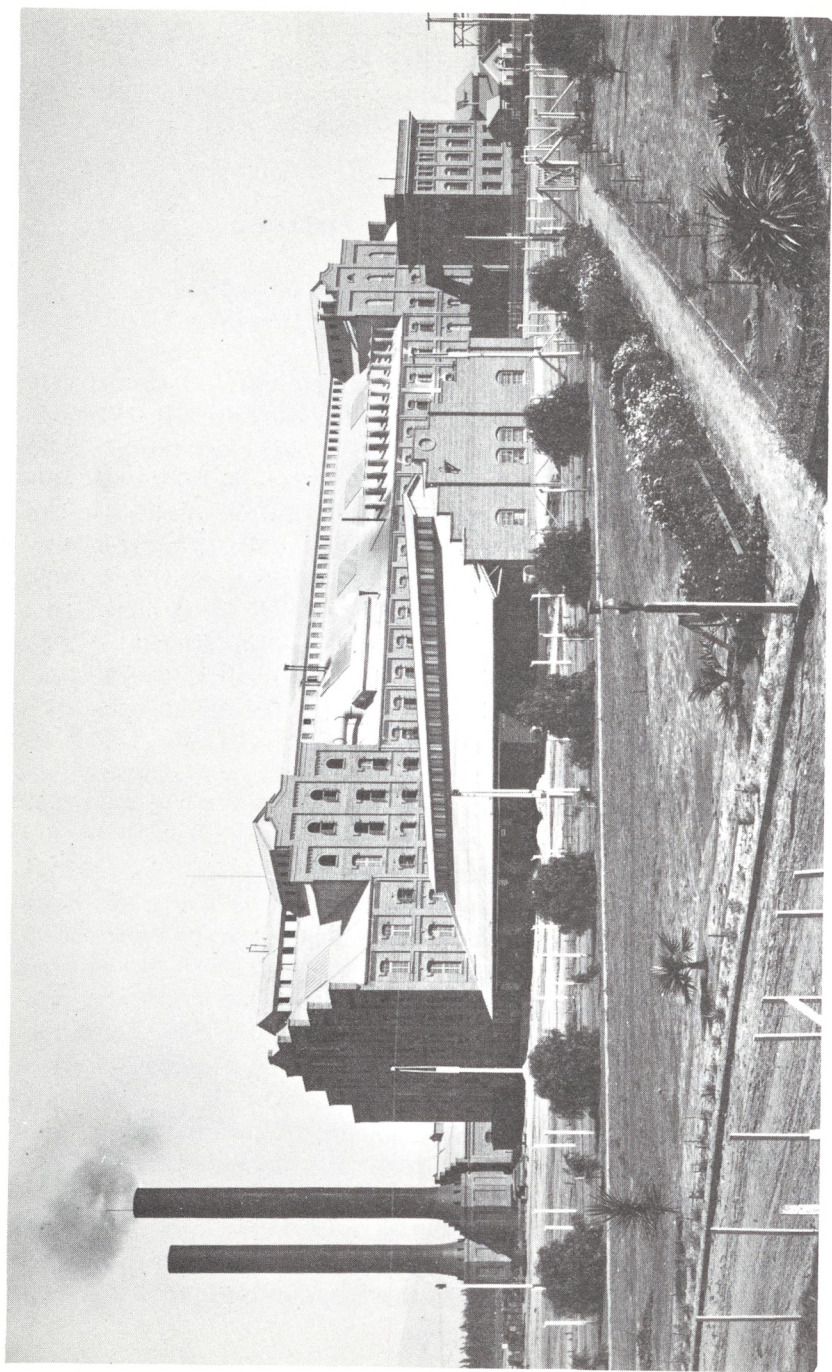
of the sunshine and the rain Providence will provide for their wants. It is very hard for the farmer of cereals to change his calling because custom or habit is a very difficult thing to overcome; and when this custom or habit has the added force of from three to ten generations, it is almost impossible to overcome its force except by the most radical measures. A gentleman who is one of the largest growers of beans in California was the other day bewailing the low price of which his crop could be sold; and said that in all the years that he had been engaged in the business he had made but a bare living, having accumulated nothing. I asked him why he continued in such an unprofitable business; and he said, "I don't know except that I am a bean farmer". The country is full of just such men. Sugar beet growing is simple. It requires a great deal of labor and intelligent watching. Good beets should contain 12 percent of sugar, and should have a coefficient of purity of 80 or over. There is a vast amount of such land in Vatura County. Beets can be grown upon almost any soil; but lands which harden and crack, or lands which are so full of moisture that the beets grow to great size, are not adapted to their culture. The amount of beets raised upon an acre will vary, as will the riches of the beet in sugar and purity of juice, with the character of the land and the care in cultivation. It is not unusual for pieces of ground which are extremely fertile and which are well cultivated to yield 30 tons of beets to the acre; and on the other hand, lands not so fertile or so carefully tilled fall as low as 12 tons to the acre, though this is extremely rare. Nothing grown responds so profitably to care in cultivation as the sugar beet; and it is the history of every sugar beet growing colony that, as the farmers come to have a great knowledge of what is necessary and a greater experience in growing that product, more and richer beets are produced. The profits upon an acre of beets will vary from \$15 to \$30. The profits the first year will not be so great as this, owing almost wholly to the fact that the lands do not usually receive as good cultivation then as they do afterwards. The cost of preparing the land is not great and the process extremely simple. The beets require a great deal of labor but it is of a simple kind and requires but little skill. It costs

from \$1.10 to \$1.30 per acre, and perhaps \$3 per acre, for properly preparing the ground for seeding. The balance of the expenditure is for care when they are growing, and for plowing up and getting ready for market.

Ventura's Sugar Factory.

A Concern Which in the Near Future Will Be One of the Largest of Its Kind in the World.

While manufacturing has not been carried on to any great extent in Ventura, still there are numerous institutions that the conditions here have brought into existence. The extensive territory for the culture of sugar beets which this county possesses makes necessary an establishment for the caring of this product. The beet sugar factory which is now under construction will undoubtedly be one of the largest factories in the world in the near future. Five immense brick buildings on concrete foundations are being erected, all to be of the best fire proof construction, with all floors of concrete and iron, and roof trusses of steel, covered with galvanized iron. The main building is to be 400 by 130 feet, three stories in height. It will contain 182 iron columns inside and 78 Z-bar columns in the exterior walls. In addition to this there will be a warehouse 300 by 100 feet, a power house 250 by 90 feet, a commodious office and laboratory building and a large building devoted to the preparation of lime. For the burning of lime there are to be provided two mammoth uprights kilns with a capacity of 360 tons of lime rock at each charge, and four rotary kilns for returning the lime that has been once used by a special process controlled by the Oxnard Company. The material for the construction of the building is arriving in large quantities. A few days ago the steamer Coos Bay landed 250 400-pound barrels of cement, and the steamer Alex Duncan landed 250 barrels. The contracts call for a completion of the buildings inside of six months, and when completed the entire works will be the finest ever erected in America. They have a capacity of 1,000 tons of beets daily, the first year, with arrangements for their



Southwest view

immediate enlargement to 2000 tons daily capacity. This immense factory when completed will give employment to large numbers of men who will be enabled to earn a comfortable living; and if industrious, acquire homes of their own.

—December 31, 1897

Beet Factory News.

New Town Site.

Work at the beet sugar factory is progressing nicely. The latest news is in regard to the organization of the Colonia Improvement Co. which will soon place upon the market a new townsite about one-half mile from the factory. The capital stock is \$150,000 all of which is subscribed. The directors are N. R. Cottman, John G. Hill, Carl Leonardt, Ernest R. Hill and Lewis W. Andrews; and the following are the officers of the Company: N. R. Cottman, president; John G. Hill, vice-president; J. A. Driffill, secretary; and C. Portius, treasurer. The surveyors began yesterday to lay out the new townhouse which will probably be known as Bayard; and ere long the streets will be graded, the sidewalk built of cement and everything in readiness for the erection of houses. It is expected that the new town will fairly boom from the very start, and great plans are being made for its future growth and development.

—January 7, 1898

Sugar Factory Celebration.

Great Preparations Being Made for the Initiation of the Big Plant.

A grand celebration in honor of the erection of the Colonia Beet Sugar Factory by the Oxnards in this county near Hueneme will be held Saturday, February 5 at the factory grounds. The Committee of Arrangements for holding this celebration for the initiation of the beet sugar factory are endeavoring to make this the grandest turnout ever known in this county. There are several large buildings with sur-

faced floors, one measuring about two hundred and fifty feet long by one hundred feet wide without any partitions, which is to be used as a dancing hall on the occasion. There will be a barbecue in the afternoon, free to all with invitation, at which half a dozen beeves will be served. The evening will also be strictly by invitation only. There will be no liquor of any kind allowed on the grounds. Music will be furnished by a brass band during the day and evening. There will be dancing all the afternoon and evening. Supper will be served at 12 p.m. Everything is to be free, no charges whatever on either cars or grounds. A large number of outdoor games are to take place in the afternoon, at which \$75 worth of prizes are to be given. Hare and hound races will be a feature of the day and great sport may be expected. All dogs for this race will be entered free. Rabbits have been secured from Bakersfield and a good supply of them. The chase will be held in the open field east of the factory. A tug of war, foot races and other attractions are announced. Invitations must be presented at cars before the bearers are admitted on train. It is the intention to have a train convey all guests from Ventura, and such as meet it at Montalvo, free to the factory grounds, same to leave about 7 p.m. and return at midnight.

Later. There will be two trains running to the factory grounds from Ventura, the first leaving Ventura about 10:45 a.m. and arriving at Montalvo in time to meet the Los Angeles train so as to take the passengers from it to the grounds; this train will leave the grounds at about 5 p.m. so as to meet the evening train for Los Angeles at Montalvo at 5:25 p.m., after which it will go to Ventura and leave Ventura for the grounds again at about 6:50 p.m. so as to be at Montalvo to meet the Los Angeles train at 7:15 p.m. to take the passengers from it to the grounds; and it is to leave the grounds at 12:30 a.m. sharp for Ventura.

—January 28, 1898

Oil for the Beet Factory.

This week Messrs. Toland and Andrews acting in behalf of the Oxnard Construction Company closed a deal with

Churchill Bros. and Le Fevre, Larsen and Bagley, two Santa Barbara firms, whereby these concerns are to furnish the new beet sugar factory with twenty-five barrels of oil daily at the stipulated price of ninety cents.

—February 25, 1898

Had a Fine Time.

Ventura Journalists Given an Enjoyable Outing.

Through the courtesy of Hon. Thos. O. Toland of the firm of Messrs. Toland & Andrews representatives of the different newspapers of Ventura were given a rare treat in the nature of an outing yesterday. According to previous arrangement one of the finest rigs in the city called at the offices bright and early; and soon the citizens of Ventura were astonished to behold such a spectacle of seeing men who were supposed to be at 'swords points' chatting and laughing as the carriage whirled by, and the longer they looked the more their wonder grew! Indeed it seemed that such a sight was too much for even the elements for very soon the clouds began to appear, and finally the much coveted rain came! The party was composed as follows: George L. Conklin, *Ventura Democrat*; E. M. Sheridan, *Ventura Signal*; George P. Dennis, *Ventura Independent* and *Los Angeles Times*; W. E. Willis, *Ventura Free press*, while they were chaperoned by the jovial Mr. Toland, and Phil. C. Bagin added dignity to the crowd. A very pleasant ride, and in due time a weighty load arrived at its destination and the new city of Oxnard was to be seen. Of course the chief attraction was the great beet sugar factory looming up in the distance, and which is fast assuming immense proportions.

Very soon Major J. A. Driffill, the affable general manager, appeared on the scene and by him the visitors were piloted in and around the gigantic structure and shown the many interesting features of the big plant. To say that the pencil pushers were surprised at the wonderful progress already made and at the plans for still greater things, would be expressing it very mildly indeed for they were simply amazed at what they saw and heard.

Each scribbler declared that he had gathered enough material for many columns of write-up. After having spent the morning hours in sight-seeing, Major Driffill invited the guests to a lunch which abounded in all the choicest viands the market affords; and as the news gatherers are noted for being very human, they were equal to the emergency and did ample justice to the bounteous spread. Covers were laid for twelve, and the newspaper men were feasted with: Mr. Leonardt, the contractor; Mr. Walker, Secretary of the Colonia Improvement Co.; Mr. Hache, agricultural expert; Mr. King, engineer; Mr. Kemble, architect; and Major Driffill. After the repast another stroll around the grounds was made including a visit to the handsome new club house, now in the course of construction, and a call upon Chief Engineer Baur who has been confined to his bed for many weeks by reason of the serious accident in which he received a broken leg. He proved to be a very interesting subject for the professional question plyers. The day passed altogether too quickly; and ere long as the clouds began to gather the journalists took leave of their entertainers and hastened home, each asserting that he had spent a very pleasant day, and expressing praise for the treatment received.

—March 18, 1898

Distinguished Family.

The Oxnard Brothers and Their Mammoth Sugar Factories.

The attention of nearly everybody in the West is now turned to the rapidly increasing industry of beet growing and beet sugar manufacture. It is conceded that the introduction of the beet sugar industry has been more far-reaching and beneficial in its results than anything which has ever been conceived in this country. There are thousands of people who derive benefit directly from this industry, not to speak of the cheapening of the price of sugar and the vast improvement in the purity of the article.

There is a vast debt of gratitude due somebody for untiring pluck and energy in introducing and building up the beet sugar industry; and after due investigation *The capital*

feels justified in laying the credit at the doors of the Oxnard Bros.

It is probable that had it not been for the faith and work of these gentlemen, beet sugar would be as little heard of today as it was in 1888 when Mr. Henry Oxnard first interested himself in it.

The four brothers (Robert, Benjamin, Henry and James Oxnard) are sugar men born and bred in the business, their father having owned and operated the Oxnard Refinery in Boston. All of the Messrs. Oxnard except Robert are graduates of leading American colleges, and upon the completion of their education they all entered the sugar business.

Today the Oxnard brothers own and control five sugar factories in the United States, four beet and one cane sugar. Two of the beet sugar factories are in Nebraska, two in California (Chino and Montalvo) and the cane sugar factory is in Louisiana. It is not overestimating it to say that in their five factories and in the raising and handling of the raw material, at least 10,000 men are given employment by the pluck and enterprise of the Oxnards.

It has not been all plain sailing during the ten years that these gentlemen have been establishing the best sugar business upon a firm foundation. They have not taken out a penny of their original investment, and all their gains of the past two years have gone into improvements.

In the founding of the factory at Chino a thriving little city was speedily created where a few months before a sheep pasture existed. Money and energy were expended like water to accomplish what one may see at Chino today, but the efforts have added vastly to the material wealth and prosperity of this section. No less important is the work now being done in Ventura County where the Colonia factory is now in progress.

It has been said that the Oxnards are foreigners. This is a great mistake. They are not only Americans heart and soul in their feelings and sympathies but are American bred and born, their paternal and maternal ancestors both being Americans for generations. It is said that the Messrs. Oxnard take a kindly interest in every one of their 10,000 employees who comes under their personal notice. And no large em-



Henry
T.
Oxnard

ployers of labor in the country are more popular with or beloved by their employees.

It would not seem proper to close this article without first having paid honor to whom honor is due. It is an acknowledged fact that to Mr. Henry T. Oxnard whose indefatigable effort, never-wavering perseverance and faith in the cause he was advocating, ably seconded by his brothers and other associates, is principally due the national and international importance that the United States beet sugar industry occupies today. He and the industry he has secured to the people of the United States stands now a menace to the existence of the sugar trust, and he is valorous enough to publicly avow this fact.

—March 4, 1898

LOCAL CORRESPONDENCE.

Great Activity and Extensive Preparations for Future Growth.

Interesting Budget of News from Enterprising Oxnard.

Geo. C. Power paid Oxnard a visit and celebrated Washington's birthday by purchasing two desirable business lots.

A public telephone station has been established by the Sunset Telephone and Telegraph Co. in Oxnard with Hill Bros. as agents.

The popular firm of Lehmann & Waterman of Hueneme were up one day last week and bought fifty feet front B and 5th street, for store purposes.

The grading of streets is nearing completion in the town, the only portion remaining ungraded being the continuation of 5th St., to the S.P. R.R. station.

The cement work for the main building of the sugar factory is all completed and derricks have been erected for hoisting heavy structural iron into place.

M. R. Levy, an enterprising Chino merchant, was up last week and secured two lots on the corner of 5th and B streets, upon which he will soon erect a building.

W. J. McMillan, who is sinking the well for the Colonia Improvement Co., has been laid up the past week by the breaking of some of his machinery. Mc. says R. Hill is his hoodoo.

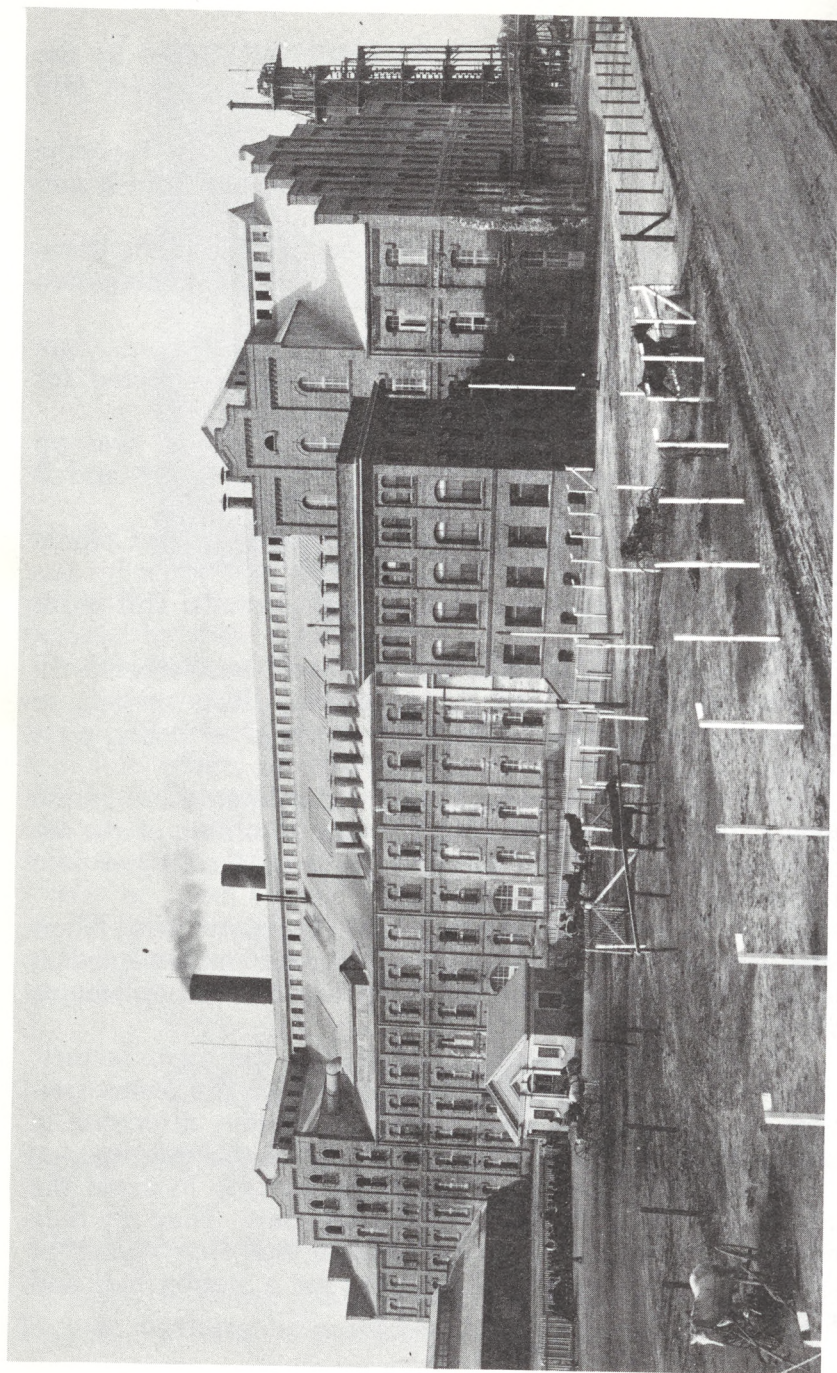
Contractor C. Leonardt has the town networked with pipes to conduct water to his sidewalks. He is making as good progress with the walls as is consistent with first-class work.

Excavations are being made for the foundation of the immense limekilns just north of the main building of the sugar factory. When completed this will be the largest kiln of the kind in this State.

D. F. Pierce, the gentlemanly and energetic Solid Comfort Plow man, representing the California Implement Co., has secured a building and has laid in a stock of implements suitable for beet culture.

W. Baers, the consulting engineer of the sugar factory, who was the most seriously injured person in the recent run-away, was brought up from Hueneme Tuesday afternoon in a carriage drawn by ten men sent down for that purpose.

Major Driffil and C. Leonardt came early to avoid the rush for the corner of South 5th and B streets. They say they will have the best building in town, a two story brick, of which the upper story will be used for a public hall and lodge room.



Southeast view

David Cohn of El Rio has been seen promenading up and down B street lately; and as he was seen coming out of the real estate office with a receipt in his hand, it would be a natural conclusion that the 'silver pitcher' will overflow in Oxnard before long.

T. E. Walker has been elected secretary of the Colonia Improvement Co. at Oxnard and commenced his duties there the first of this week. Tom is a first class real estate man, and under his guidance the town of Oxnard will doubtless make rapid strides. Mr. Walker's office is in the building with Hill Bros.

—February 25, 1898

Work on the Big Factory Progressing Rapidly.

Dr. Lowentrout was in town Tuesday. He intends locating here in the near future.

Kimball's lodging house and Bolinger's restaurant are doing a rushing business, both being full to overflowing.

L. W. Andrews drove over from Ventura one day last week to view his beet land, rented from the Colonia Improvement Co.

Mr. Hoffman, who has charge of the ice plant at the sugar factory, has the neatest cottage in town and expects to move into it soon.

M. W. Hurst has added a room to his carpenter shop for the accommodation of a shoe repair who has lately come to town.

Work on the factory buildings is going on as fast as material arrives. One who visits the grounds not oftener than once a week can notice marked advance in construction.

For the benefit of the traveling public your correspondent wishes to state that C street is already for use as is also a highway west, through the property of Mrs. A. Hill, to the Ventura Road.

M. J. McMillan again had the misfortune to break another cog-wheel, making a trip to Los Angeles necessary. Mc. enjoyed the trip, anyway, and says that he wanted a little vacation before tackling that well again.

Many of the farmers of this vicinity are preparing to ir-

rigate their land and most of them will do so on a large scale. In this connection Geo. C. Power, the manager of the Santa Clara Water and Irrigating Co., is kept busy.

The site for the new S.P.R.R. station, has been selected and some preliminary foundation work has been done. As soon as the material arrives, the building will be commenced and when completed will be the equal of any station in this county.

—March 4, 1898

New Railroad Depot Rapidly Nearing Completion.

Big Beet Factory Smokestack About Finished.

Ed. Tiznerat of Chino is up, looking after his business interests in Oxnard.

S. L. Mack, receiver of the firm of Wolff & Lehmann, of Hueneme, paid Oxnard a visit Tuesday afternoon, in connection with his duties.

The cement sidewalks are now almost all completed, the only portion remaining unfinished being that from the square in the center of town.

The smoke stack of the factory lacks very little of being completed. When it is, it will be one of the land marks of the country as it can be seen for miles.

Lumber for the buildings of Chris Hartman and M. R. Levy has begun to arrive and, as the contracts for the same have been let, two more lots will soon be occupied.

The new railroad station has been completed as far as carpentering is concerned and has received a coat of paint. Whether it is to have a sand finish under the terms of the painters' contract or not, cuts no figure in this case as the wind did that in a very thorough and workmanlike manner.

—April 15, 1898

Passenger And Freight Trains Will Soon Be Running.

E. R. Hill commenced planting beets Tuesday on irrigated land.



Oxnard Hotel

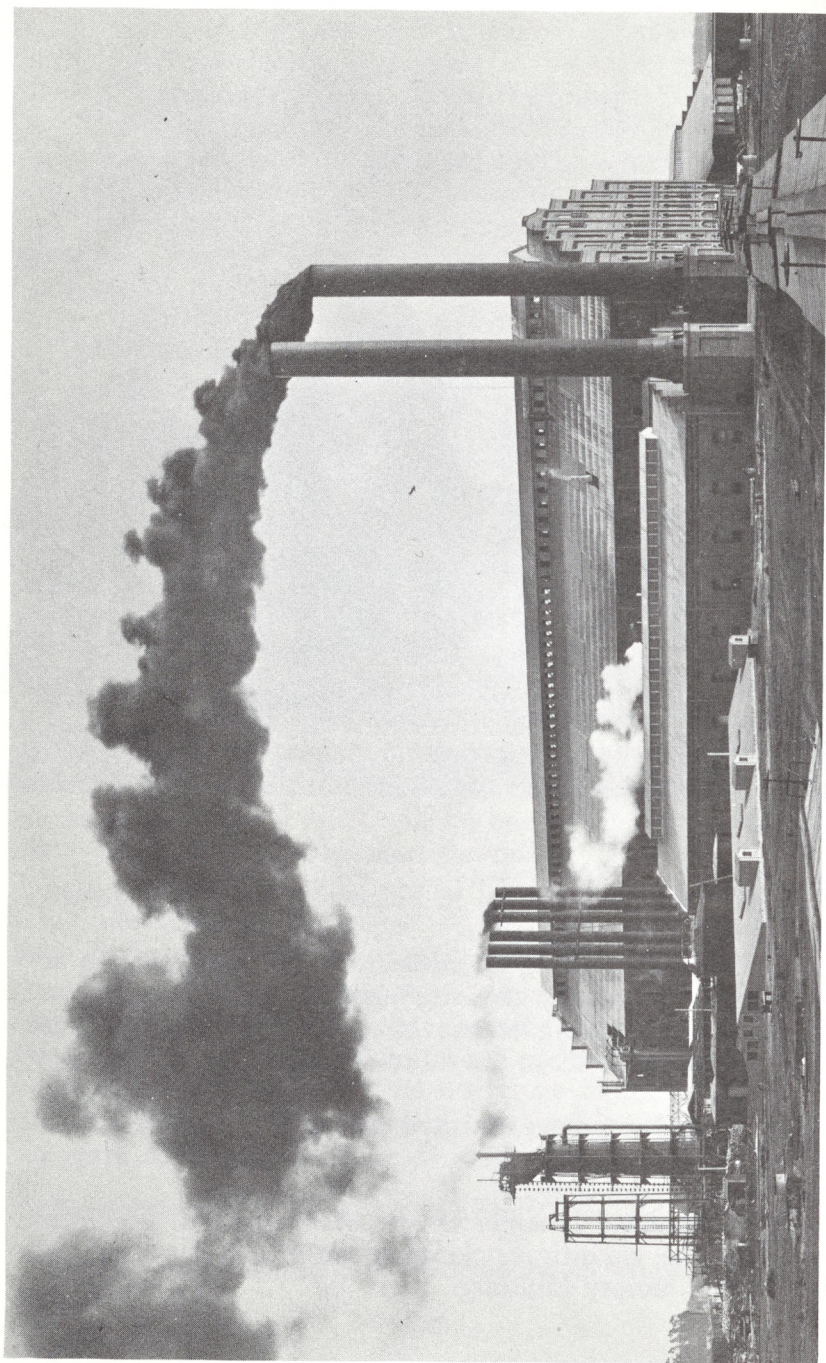
Trains will soon begin to come into Oxnard regularly, but just when I cannot say.

J. H. Bell is putting an addition to his restaurant to accommodate his steadily growing business in the "eating" line.

The sidewalk gang has moved across the Saviers' Road to finish up the sidewalk to the railroad station which will complete the job.

Pidduck Bros. have finished planting thirty acres of irrigated land to beets, where they are as sure of a crop as any one can reasonably be.

The immense limekiln is almost completed, and itself resembles the gigantic smokestack located at the west end of the main factory building.



Northwest view

M. R. Levy's store building on the corner of 5th and B streets, is almost ready for the painter. When completed the upper story is, so I am informed, for the purposes of a public hall.

Most of the heavy iron of the frame of the factory is now in place so that a large part of the dangers attendant upon erection is eliminated and the remainder of the work will go on more rapidly.

J. B. Waud has been out putting in some permanent monuments at the intersections of some of Oxnard's principal streets that he describes as being "concrete with a lead center with a copper tack and a luminous spot".

The postoffice is running smoothly as possible without some of the necessary 'tools of the profesh' that Uncle Sam promises to send. Postmaster Hill says he can stand it awhile to cancel stamps and date letters with a pen if Uncle will only give Spain a good thrashing.

—May 6, 1898

Beet Fields Look Astonishingly Well for a Dry Year.—The Gigantic Factory Beginning to Assume Shape.

Beet thinning and cultivating are going on now on all sides and the fields being worked upon are looking astonishingly well for a dry year.

The roof of the factory is nearly all on so that one can get a good idea of the gigantic proportions of the building at a glance. They have begun to move in the heavy machinery used in the manufacture of sugar and set it in place.

—May 27, 1898

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P**

American Antiquarian Society
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Ballas
Mrs. Buford H. Carden
Shirley L. Carter
Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Chrisman
Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Hadley

Philip Bard
Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Borchard
Henry M. Borchard
Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Burnham
Mrs. E. C. Canet
Mrs. Leonore Cousen
Mrs. Effie Bartlett Daly
Mrs. Harold Dudley
Mrs. Rosemary H. Duncan
Mrs. Joyce Totten Fraser
Marjorie A. Fraser
Mrs. Katherine H. Haley
John F. Henning
Walter Wm. Hoffman
Mrs. Helen Holve

William H. Cook
Dr. and Mrs. Samuel R. Edwards
Elizabeth Leonard
Mrs. Henry A. Levy

NEW

Mr. and Mrs. Clifford E. Hey
Veronica Komlei
Mrs. Mary Murphy
Mr. and Mrs. Elmer A. Peterson
Mr. and Mrs. William Porter
Leslie W. Walker

LIFE

Carmen Camarillo Jones
David Adolpho Lamb
John Burkett Lamb
Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. Lamb
Robert B. Lamb III
Mrs. Edwin J. Marshall
Eulalee McMullen
Capt. and Mrs. R. N. Miller III
A. A. Milligan
Robert G. Naumann
Mrs. Mary H. Norcop
Mr. and Mrs. Francis Petit
Grace S. Thille
Hary Valentine
Richard D. Willett

SUSTAINING

Kenneth C. Murphy
Mr. and Mrs. Lester T. Shiells
Mr. and Mrs. Henry E. Stead
Mr. and Mrs. Milton M. Teague

Katherine Bard Wollman

Half a Century of Service

California Mutual Insurance Co. Organized on April 4, 1898 as the Ventura County Mutual Fire Insurance Co. with E. P. Foster, president; Nathan Blanchard, vice-president and Charles Barnard, secretary. This old Ventura County business firm has faithfully followed the high standards set by its pioneer founders.

County Stationers, Inc., 532 E. Main, Ventura. Successor to John J. MacGregor. Since 1898 Ventura County's complete stationer and office furniture dealer.

Janss Investment Corporation. The company began its first real estate development activities in 1889. Operations were moved to the Conejo Valley in 1954 with offices in Thousand Oaks and Newbury Park.

Bank of A. Levy, 143 W. Fifth St., Oxnard. Founded in 1900 by the late Achille Levy, who came to Hueneme in 1875. Since its inception the Bank of A. Levy has been closely allied with the farm and ranch industries of Ventura County.

Santa Paula Savings and Loan Association. Organized in April 1890 as the Santa Paula Building and Loan Association with J. R. Haugh, president; Caspar Taylor, vice-president and H. H. Youngken, secretary. This organization has served the interests of home owners and builders, as well as those of the investor.

Safeco Title Insurance Company, successor to Security Title Co., has been insuring title to California properties since 1920 and headquartered in Ventura since 1959.

Title Insurance and Trust Company. Successor to Ventura Abstract Company, founded in 1893 by Charles Barnard and incorporated in 1898 by him and four associates: Lloyd Selby, J. S. Collins, Robert C. Sudden and John H. Reppy. The office has been in continuous operation in Ventura County since that time.

Union Oil Company of California. Incorporated in Santa Paula in 1890, its operations have spread from Ventura County to become world-wide.

VENTURA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY

Vol. XIX, No. 2

Winter 1974

Ventura County Historical Society

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The Ventura County Historical Society's headquarters is the Pioneer Museum, 77 North California Street, Ventura, California. All communications should be addressed to the Society at the Pioneer Museum. There are three classes of membership: active, \$7.50 per year including husband and wife; sustaining, \$25 per year; and life, \$100. Memberships include subscription to the *Quarterly*. Additional copies are available at \$1.25 each.

The *Quarterly* is published from the Society's headquarters at the Pioneer Museum. The Society assumes no responsibility for the statements or opinions of authors of various articles. Grant W. Heil is Editor and the Staff includes Mrs. Naydean L. Baker, Mrs. Florence Dawson, Duane L. Garber, Charles H. Heil, David W. Hill, Miss Linda C. Jordan, Junius H. Kellam, Charles F. Outland, Mrs. Rafaelita Ortega Philbrick, Thomas A. Roe and Richard D. Willett.

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The Ventura County Historical Society *Quarterly*

Vol. XIX, No. 2

Winter 1974

Grant W. Heil, Editor

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SAN BUENAVENTURA AND VICINITY, CALIFORNIA

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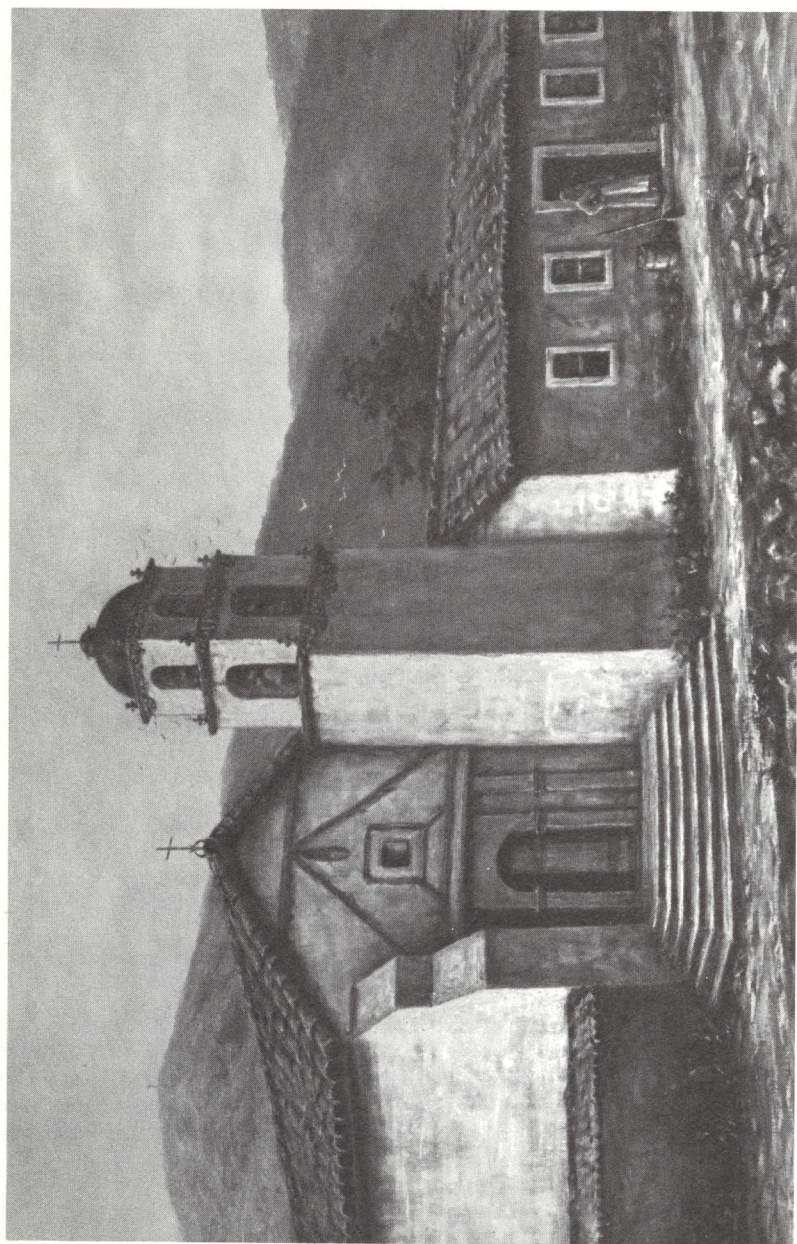
DEAR JENNIE

By S. J. Alexander

Notice

The paintings and the map are in the Pioneer Museum.

Jennie Alexander did come to California to attend Los Angeles Normal School and teach; she married George Willett, and they lived for many years in Wheeler Canyon. The manuscripts were collated by Linda Jordan who had previously done the Rodaway diary.



San Buenaventura Mission, 1860

Edith Sheppy, 1899

REMINISCENCES OF VENTURA

By an Old Soger¹

No. 1.²

It was in the winter of 1853-4 that we first beheld and admired the beautiful level vales, rolling hills and snow-capped mountain peaks that surround and encompass the old Mission of San Buenaventura. We say 'Old Mission' for at that time there was little else than the mission buildings, a grog and grocery store in the place. Perhaps the population within the present town limits would have numbered nearly 200. We only remember seeing three persons who spoke the English language, designated by the *paisanos*³ 'foreigners' or 'gringos': one of whom was an American named Colombo; the other two of Irish nativity, one named John Carr, the other's name we have forgotten. Mr. Colombo lived in a little shanty, as nearly as we can locate it, about where Spear's block now stands.⁴ He had about 50 acres of what is now the main business portion of the town enclosed with a ditch fence and sown to barley, claiming it as government land, and was deeply involved in a suit with Dr. Poli for it. Doubtless this was the ancestral squat in this county, whose progeny has been so numerous and so materially retarded its development.⁵

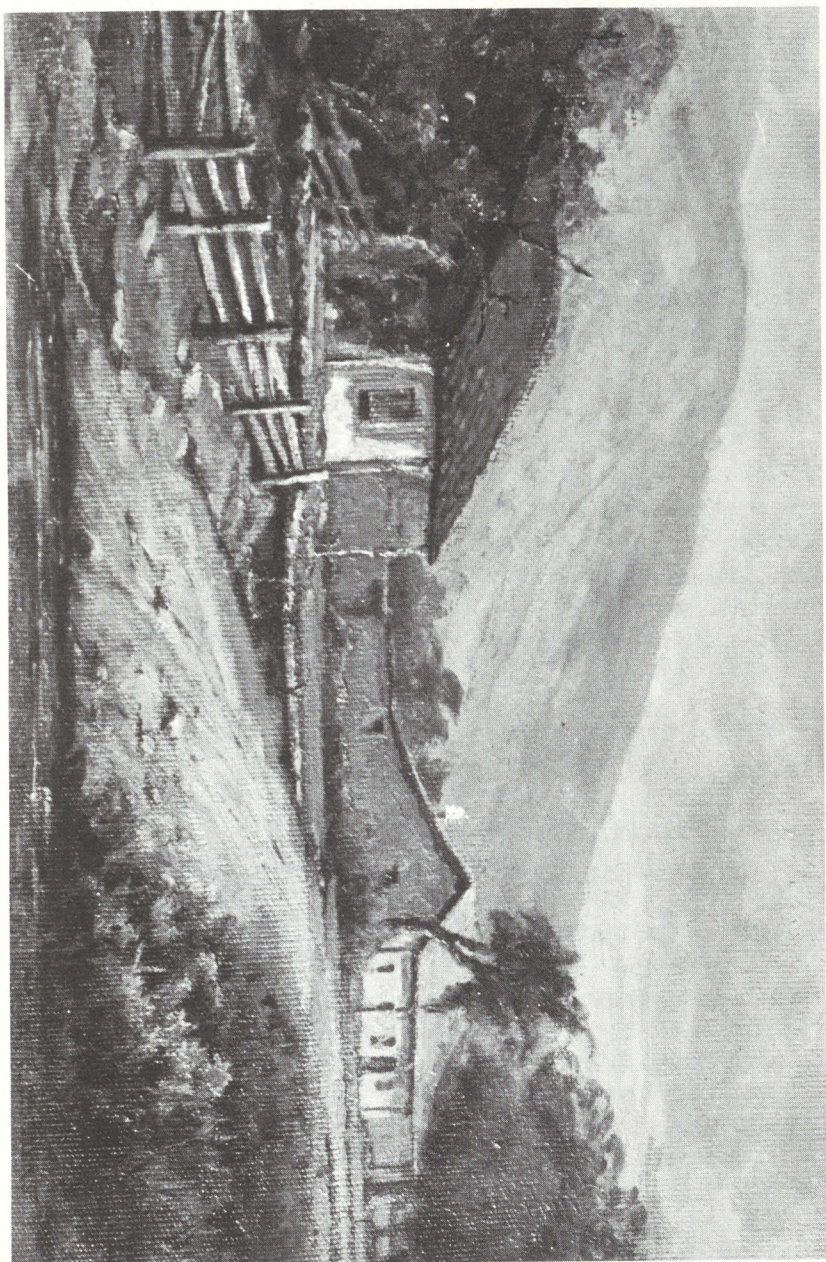
Mr. Carr lived in the east wing of the mission building in rooms later occupied by Messrs. Chaffee & Gilbert for a store. (We trust these staunch old Presbyterians will excuse us for chronicling the fact that they once joined the Catholic Church.) But we were speaking of Mr. Carr, the genial host of Ventura of that date, the landlord and dispenser of food not only to body but mind also to the few strangers visiting this part of the country. He was a true type of his race (true to his adopted soil as to the old sod) and never tired of praising its beauties or fertility, particularly this portion of it (little dreaming at that time that his neighbors a few years later would cite his own family as one of the strongest proofs of the truth of his assertions). It happened in this wise: Mr. Carr was possessed of a lovely and amiable wife; but twelve years of connubial bliss had failed

to either multiply or add even so much as a digit to the number originally constituting this happy family circle until about the time or perhaps a year later than we have been speaking of he moved on to a piece of land in the Cañada^a now occupied by Gilbert, Comstock, Chaffee and others where, in the short space of two years, they were (well, we believe 'blessed' is the canonical term) with the addition of no less than five little Carrs to the original train or twain. This his neighbors attributed to the wonderful fertility of the soil; nor has this extraordinary property entirely deserted the premises to this day, as its present and past occupants can attest.

Of the Spanish population with whom we became acquainted at that time there are numbered among the departed Don Juan Sanchez and wife, Dr. Poli, Don Felipe and Manuel Gonzales and a few others; all, if we are correctly informed, of the old Castillian stock, ever rather reserved to the stranger but nevertheless not to be outdone in hospitality or courteousness. Among the living are Dons Raimundo Olivas, Ygnacio Del Valle, Ysidro Obiols, Jose Arnaz and Victor of the unspellable name (we won't attempt it, but leave it for the next spelling match).⁷ The well-known honesty and urbanity of character of these gentlemen forms a true index to the general character of our early inhabitants. San Buenaventura thus early possessed the name of having a remarkably quiet, peaceable and honest population; nor has she unto the present time materially retrograded in this respect.

Their principal pursuit at that time was that of herdsmen (if the man who occasionally rides around and views his cattle and horses on a thousand hills, corralling or releasing them but once or twice in a year, can be properly termed herdsmen). They were undoubtedly stock raisers on a magnificent scale, such as we never may see again; many of them branding annually from 500 to 2000 calves. And poor indeed was the *ranchero*^a who could not number his trained riding horses by the hundred, and yet more inhospitable the one who would not furnish without price the traveler with wearied steed with a fresh relay to the next ranch.

Land at that time was very cheap, from 10 to 50 cents



West Main Street, 1858 *by* Wilhelmina Dubbers

per acre for good ranches. The whole of the beautiful valley on either side of Ventura Avenue was purchased for \$3,000, and the bargain thrown up by the purchaser. The irrepressible Yankee had not then developed its unequalled richness. The tile-roofed adobes and thatched huts were the only improvements. In the broad valley of the Santa Clara between the mission and Camulos there was but the *rancheriae* at Saticoy and a tent at Sespe where the traveler could obtain a meal. For thirty miles you traveled over the then undisputed possessions of one man, T. W. More. The cattle on this ranch numbered a few years later 11,000, perhaps more at that time.

In our last we described Ventura as we found it 22 years past. In this we will note some of the changes that have been made. It was not until four or five years later that we were numbered among the residents of the place. That year we polled nine American or foreign votes: A. M. Cameron, Griffin Robbins, W. T. Nash, Mr. Williams, James Beebe, W. D. Hobson, Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. Park and one other. From this time the American population began to increase, although very slowly, for several years. Among our first acquisitions were V. A. Simpson, John Hill, Albert Martin, G. S. Briggs, the Barnett families, G. S. Gilbert, W. S. Chaffee, W. A. Norway, H. P. Flint, Burbank, Hankerson, Crane and Harrington. This year we thought our numbers sufficient to celebrate our national birthday, which we accordingly did with Judge McGuire for orator and Thomas Dennis as reader of the *Declaration*. This being about the beginning of the War of the Rebellion, we were all full of patriotism; and Ventura has perhaps never seen a more enthusiastic or pleasanter party than assembled on that occasion at the old American Hotel, kept at the time by our whilom friend, V. A. Simpson.

The following winter witnessed the greatest rainfall we have had in southern California since the settlement by Americans. The rain commenced early, about the time it commenced this year, giving us four or five days rain; then a cessation of about three weeks, when it began again and scarcely let up until the first of March. For sixty days we had more or less rain almost every day and several times during the period raining for three and four days at a time, very hard and almost incessantly. The mountain slides all over the country are yet plainly visible, the effects of this rainy season. To those who have never witnessed it the sliding of the mountains is grand beyond the power of pen or language to portray. Living in the Cañada at the time, almost surrounded by high hills, we had an opportunity of witnessing it on a small scale; though as nothing compared with what it must have been on the large mountains. Nearly one half of the surface of the hillsides on the east of The Avenue were



Henry Pinney (H. P.) Flint
(with beard)
on his wedding day

laid bare on the occasion. They were covered with a kind of greasewood or sagebrush and bunch grass from three to six feet in height, which you first discover shaking (perhaps an acre in extent or it might have been a much larger patch, at the distance we were off we could not tell) shaking as if swept by a severe gale or swaying under the effects of an earthquake; then slowly at first this great body of earth from one to three feet in depth would commence its descent, gaining speed and momentum at every instant until its velocity must have fully equalled that of the railroad car; it went rolling, splashing, bounding, thundering on its headlong downward course until striking the valley, the mud and slush which it had by this time been converted into seemed to be ejected at least 60 feet in height; such was but a miniature slide compared with what must have been taking place all over the high mountains beyond our view, the roar of which (louder and more terrible, for we knew that it carried destruction and perhaps death with it, than any thunder) continued almost incessantly for two or three days and nights. The number of inches of water which fell during the winter of 1861-2 we have never heard, but feel certain it must have exceeded that of any two years since.

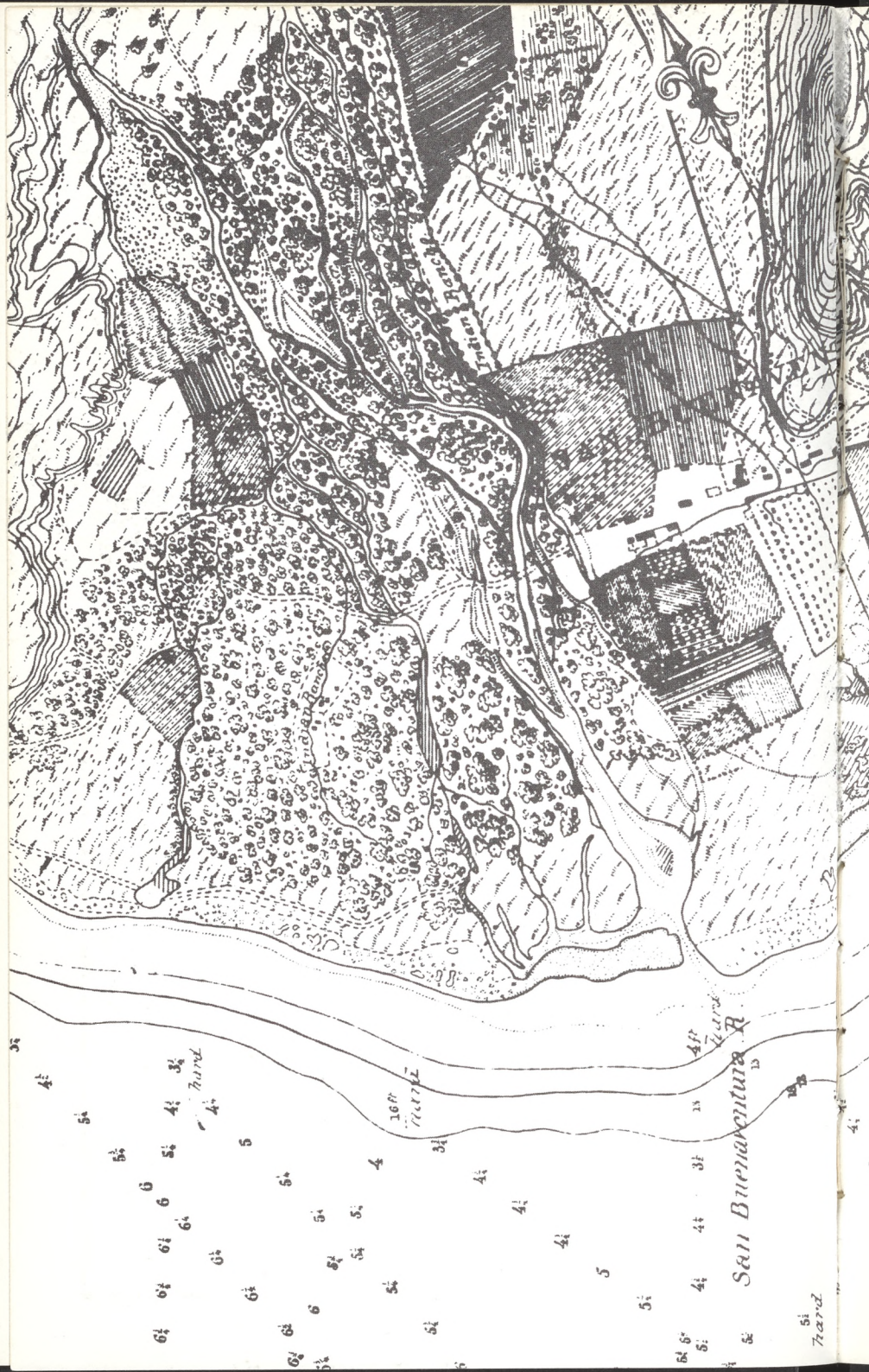
In the summer following this terrible winter, our friends Vassault, Waterman & Co. accompanied by Mr. Coggeswell, Wm. Riley and J. T. Stow visited us for the purpose of laying out the Town of San Buenaventura and placing the lands of the ex-Mission in the market. Of course these lands were just on the eve of being patented; not thirty days, as was represented, would elapse before the patent would be on record." But alas, how slowly the patent mills grind. Only equalled, perhaps, by the grist mill of our old friend Harrington of the same date, of which it is said an ox teamster had to stop his team, level his gad and take sight to see if it moved. But perseverance accomplishes a great deal and Harrington by running night and day, an emergency he was always equal to, managed to keep himself and three neighbors supplied with corn cakes. And so the ex-Mission company in thirteen years have at last accompanlished their thirty days task. In a year or two more, when they get through squabbling about who shall get the lion's share of

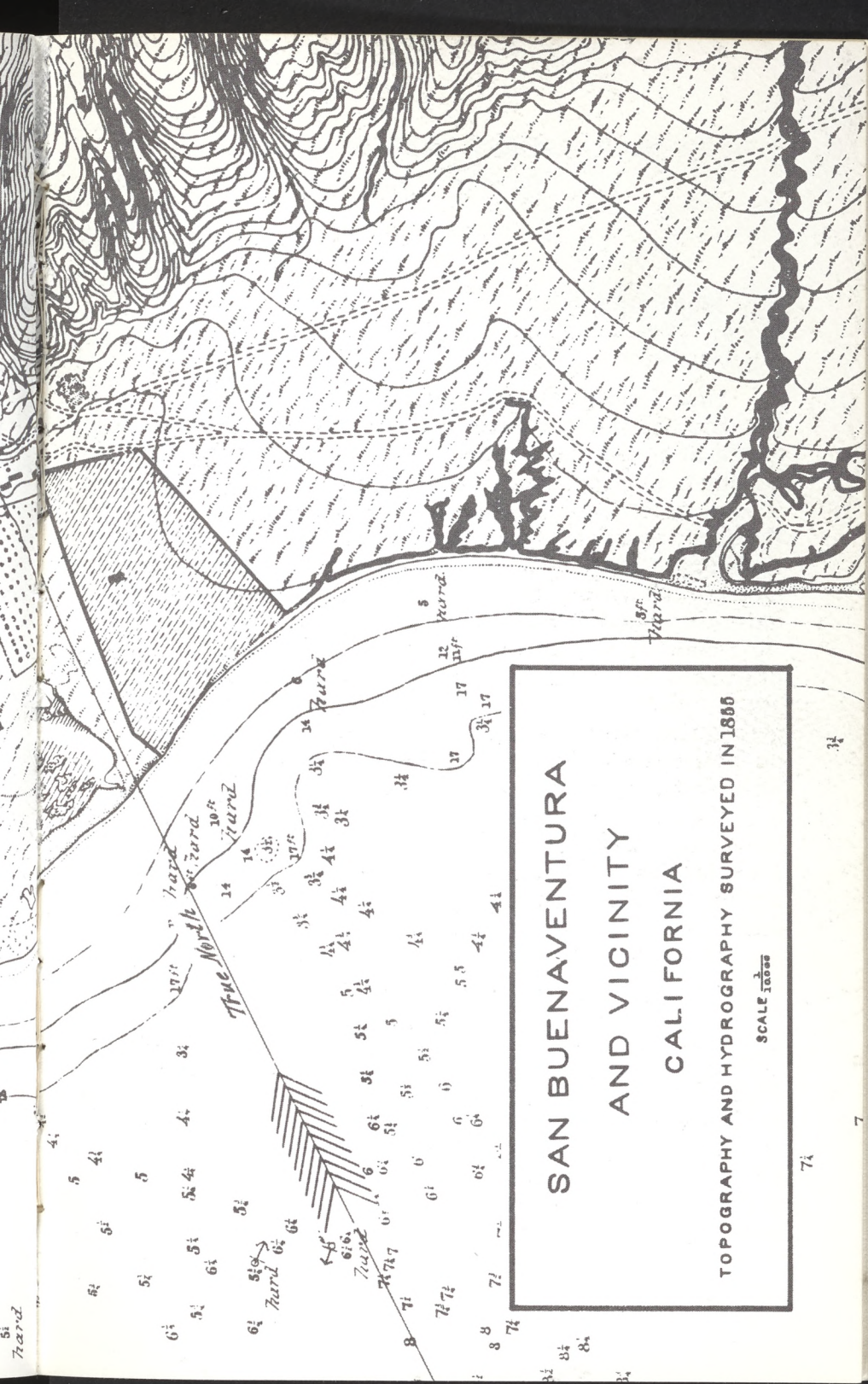
the profits, we may begin to reap some benefit from it.

Close upon the heels of this extraordinarily wet season we have above described, as might have been expected, in 1863-4 came the dryest season, perhaps of this century. The earth, during this whole winter, was not wet at any time more than three inches in depth. The few farmers who were here were obliged to irrigate before breaking up their land, and to depend entirely on irrigation for their crops. It was then that we first began to realize the wonderful power this soil possessed of retaining moisture. Land irrigated and sowed to barley in February required no more water for sixty days when one more irrigation sufficed to produce crops unexcelled perhaps in any part of the world. The writer harvested from land thus cultivated that year over five tons of barley hay to the acre on an average. Our population being small at that time, and having abundance of land we could irrigate, we never experienced a more prosperous year; though we are forced to admit our prosperity was mainly due to the adversity of neighboring counties where they were not so favorably situated and, being unable to raise sufficient to supply their wants, afforded us an excellent market for all our surplus.

FOOTNOTES

1. Dr. Isaac Chauncey Isbell, according to E. M. Sheridan.
2. Ventura *Signal*, December 25, 1875.
3. Natives.
4. Corner of Main and Palm Streets.
5. Squatters.
6. Cañada Larga.
7. Victor Ustusaustegui.
8. Rancher.
9. *I.e. rancherias* were Indian villages.
10. Ventura *Signal*, January 1, 1876.
11. Rancho Ex-Mission San Buenaventura was patented August 24, 1874 to Manuel Antonio Rodriguez de Poli.





SAN BUENAVENTURA

AND VICINITY

CALIFORNIA

TOPOGRAPHY AND HYDROGRAPHY SURVEYED IN 1865

SCALE 1:10000

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DEAR JENNIE

By S. J. Alexander

Saticoy, Saturday Eve
Mar. 15th, 1890.

Miss Jennie Alexander
Honey Creek, Penna.
My dear Niece,

Your lengthy, newsy and interesting letter of the 7th inst. reached me in today's mail. Indeed I was greatly surprised at seeing the postmark and wondered who could be writing to me from Milroy, but I soon discovered from whom it came; after reading it nearly through, it seemed to me like the sound of a voice from the tomb of buried recollections as it recalls to memory names of persons long since forgotten. Did intend writing to you on several occasions, but must have postponed it indefinitely. . .

Jennie, I am just able to be around again, have been prostrated by *la grippe* during the last ten days and yet I am too weak and nervous to write as this sheet betrays. A great many were affected by the influenza, yet there were no fatal cases in this section which is attributed to the mildness of our sunny climate.

We are in the midst of orange harvest. Thousands of railway carloads have been shipped from the orange groves since Jan. 1st; and thousands of carloads of oranges are ripening on the trees, which will be gathered and shipped east and north.

Mac's little Mary is now in the orchard, jerking off oranges and chewing and munching them till the juice drips off of her chin on her dress.

Our fig trees are burdened with the young fruit which will ripen in a few months; and it is a laughable sight to see little Mary go for and eat figs. Her ma had to lariat Mary to a post to prevent her getting to the fig trees where she would continue eating till some of us would remove her. Our trees will yield three crops of figs this year. Our loquat trees are laden with golden fruit, and will be ripe in a few days.

Some of our apple trees are very full of fruit which is about two thirds grown and will be ripe in April. Most of the apple, apricot, peach, pear, plum, nectarine, quince and semitropical fruit are just now blooming, having been kept back by the unprecedentedly wet season through which we have just passed. Owing to the heavy rains ranchers were compelled to suspend operations and consequently are very backward with their planting; some of them are just finishing sowing barley, while most of them have barley and oats in bloom during the last three weeks.

Haying began in this section in the latter part of January. An immense quantity of filaree was mown and piled; but the wet weather damaged it before it was cured sufficiently to put under roof.

Vegetation has made an enormous growth in this section since the 20th of October when our spring opened. Bro. Mac is just finishing plowing our lower ranch today, which he did with six horses, in a single sulky plow; the malva, mustard and grass are much higher than the horse's head, in fact could not see him or his team if the vegetation was between. Pasture on the hill ranges and canyons is magnificent and all kinds of stock are very fat.

The honey season promises to be a very prolific one as the hills and valleys are now a perfect blaze of flowers and bloom, and the busy little bees are gathering their rich harvest of sweetness.

Butterflies, humming birds, orioles and mockingbirds are unpleasantly plentiful here at present. The mockingbird of California is boisterously noisy at this season of the year and mocks a hundred birds every time he shoots his mouth off. If they would sing confined in a cage like they do here at liberty, they would be a grand bird to have in a dreary country.

We have been feeding a small band of hogs, about two hundred head, on damaged lima beans of which we bought forty tons. Old hogs grow very fat on lima beans; we have some that weigh between five and six hundred pounds per head, and are offered six dollars per cwt. lbs. live weight in the corral at home. We will feed them till next May when they will all be fatted. Bro. Mac raised fourteen hundred

bags of beans last season. I am holding them for higher prices, have been offered fifty cents per cwt. more than they offered for them when harvested.

Strawberries are ripe and quite plentiful. New peas are a drug on the market. New and old cabbage is always plenty here and cheap; in fact, all kinds of vegetables are grown the year round. Shall send you an olive branch without the fruit; the olive harvest closes here in February and I am unable to find a twig that has any olives at present.

I shall send you my *Daily Examiner* and would like to have your county paper in exchange. Mac caught a wild hare this evening and brought it into Mary who went wild over the capers of the long-eared animal.

Bro. Josiah has bought out his partner's interest in the buildings, improvements and implements in their butchering business and will move them to Saticoy depot before July. He is kept very busy, selling beef and buying stock. His barn, three horses, harness, hay and some fixtures were burned last Sept. He received a light insurance, about one third of the loss: insurance, \$850.00.

Thousands of acres are now being planted in orange and walnut trees throughout this section. The *ranchos* and large ranches are being subdivided in lots of 160, 100, 80 and 40 acres each and are immediately set out to trees by tenderfeet who pay from \$150.00 to \$200.00 per acre according to location.

Some of the thriftiest and best producing apricot and apple orchards that are just coming into bearing are being dug out, and walnuts planted in their place. Apricots are too plenty and sell for about what it costs to gather them while walnuts sell readily at one hundred and sixty dollars per ton. Apricots sell for ten and twelve dollars per ton boxed and delivered free on board the cars, which leaves nothing for the orchardist. A great many are putting out prunes of the French and German variety. There are miles of orchards here unbroken by anything except a public road, most of which is not fenced: no stock of any kind but what is prohibited from running at large, making fences unnecessary.

Next June I will send you some Australian sea moss

and some seashore shells. I expect to go up the coast on a camping expedition in a few weeks, and then will have a good opportunity to select choice shells for you as I know you would admire and greatly prize them because of their being gathered on the golden shores of the Pacific Ocean.

Our rainy season closed about a month ago leaving us a cloudless sky, soft and sunny weather and roads hard, smooth and bright as polished marble at present. We expect a few showers within the next thirty days to start the late sown barley, but we may not get any more till next Dec.

A snowflake has not fallen in this vicinity since I lived here; but we could see it snowing fast and furious on our surrounding mountains last week when we could see three rainbows in the snowstorm while all was quiet, warm, bright and sunny in our neighborhood. Between thirty and forty feet of snow has fallen on a level near Sierra City, Cal. this season; an avalanche rolled down on that city and crushed a great many to death. Owing to excessive rains this season, the rivers have been unusually high. The snow melting in the mountains where our little river heads causes it to rise five or six feet in less than an hour; parties crossing it just then are generally swept into the Pacific Ocean. A great many have been drowned here at our crossing, most of whom are tenderfeet who don't know anything about the strength of California rivers.

Well, Jennie, I was highly pleased to see how greatly you have improved since you last wrote me. Wish you could attend school in order to qualify yourself for teaching. Our teachers receive salaries ranging from seventy-five to one hundred and fifty dollars per month in Ventura County. The normal schools of California furnish tuition free. Hoping to receive a letter with your photograph soon.

I remain, Yours truly,
S. J. Alexander

Saticoy, Cal.
Thursday, Dec. 4th, 1890.

Miss Jennie M. Alexander
Dear Niece,

Your very kind and interesting letter dated Aug. 17 reached me six days after date and did intend replying in due time. But owing to the sad intelligence conveyed by letters . . . Dear Jennie, let us drop sorrow's veil over tender emotions excited by the ruthless hand of death that destroyed our sweetest, loveliest and dearest relatives, and turn our attention to the living with whom we have to deal. During the 21st of August a native daughter of California admitted to our house a genuine duodecimo edition of the Alexander family; Sara named her Irene. Mary rocks, sings and talks to her little sister as though she was old enough to understand all she said to her.

Bro. Josiah attended the Masquerade Ball at Armory Hall, Ventura, Thanksgiving night. He secured the brilliant military dress of Gov. Pio Pico who was the last Spanish governor of this state; will send you the Ventura *Democrat* to which you can refer for a more extended account of the ball and will send you some copies of the *Examiner* . . . We would like to have the Lewistown papers that give an account of the late election in your county. The Democrats were much more fortunate in Penna. than in California. Here two Democratic congressmen were elected out of six. The Americanized *Encyclopedia Britannica* was just brought into my desk by Bro. Josiah from the express office. I ordered it a few days ago. It is the best work of reference I have ever seen. Every school library has a cyclopaedia in this state. All the public schools of this state have large libraries, and every school building in Ventura Co. contains an organ or piano.

The second term of Saticoy School opened a few days since and will close June 30th, 1891 which is the last day of the school year of this state. Mrs. King teaches now and has taught the last three terms. She said they had no use for a stove in the school this year to date. Since the rain began, the mercury has dropped to the temperate line on our ther-



Jennie M. Alexander

mometer. Would like to send you some seeds if I knew what kind would suit and flourish in your climate. However I'll enclose you some Monterey Cypress seed from which is propagated our evergreen ornamental trees that are often used for hedge fence and some alfalfa seed which, if you sow next May, will give you some idea of the kind of clover raised on this coast . . .

You say your health is not first-rate which I am sorry to hear. Hope you will take good care of yourself, and attend school and prepare yourself to face the battles that all have to face in life . . . I was glad to see the respect you manifest for Mr. and Mrs. McCarley who, I feel happy in believing, has done more for you than all the rest of the world. And it is just and proper that you should honor, and cherish the kindest of feelings for them now and during your lifetime. I would be pleased to know when you and they can decide on a time that you may visit Cal. Would like to hear of your attending school. As to answering your inquiry in regard to my ever visiting again the state of old Pennsylvania, I at present do not entertain the least idea of every again having to undergo the rigors of her inhospitable climate. The time and occasion has passed forever when tears of affection and homesickness for the old sod gave me pain. Now I would not turn on my heel to look at the land of my birth, and business only would induce me to travel in that direction. Of course I would be very much pleased to meet you and other relatives, but much prefer meeting them on the golden shores of the Montezumas.

Bro. John talks of going east next May; still I think when May comes, he will be loathe to leave home just as he has frequently said and done. It is a hard undertaking for anyone who has resided long in the Italy of America to leave, even for a limited time. It is customary for all old timers to promise themselves a visit to their birthplace at some set time in the future; but the promise is broken ninety-nine times out of a hundred. Have never heard Bro. Josiah say he wanted to visit Penna. since the first few weeks after he arrived. He received a letter from Fos. Taylor in Philadelphia a few days ago saying his father's eyes were badly affected and Fos is undergoing medical treatment for asthma.

He was noted for treating himself for asthma and other ailments almost as serious.

Hunting is all the rage at present. Two boys, Sammie and Dell Johnson, passed us with four large deer lashed on their horses this morning, having been out less than three hours. Deer are exceedingly numerous here this season, consequently venison plenty and cheap.

Rabbits are too numerous to write about. The premium on coyote scalps has been suspended in order to let them increase so as to destroy the rabbits; as the wolves were being killed off for the premium paid by the county, then the rabbit increased ten fold and ranchers lost more by the rabbit pest than the wolf pest. Myriads of wild geese and ducks are coming here from the North now.

You wished me tell you something in regard to the way we live. I do not understand your question fully, but presume you wish to know something of the composition of our household and the building we occupy. Our house contains five rooms, unusually large for this section, all on one floor. The ceilings are fourteen feet from the floor; and is a one-story frame cottage structure. Hard finished inside and painted white outside, and was the costliest house when built in this place; but now there are being built the most costly residences that are to be found anywhere in the Union, right here in Saticoy. Bro. Mac and his family live with us. Sara does the cooking. Bro. Jno. and I find or furnish everything that is required on the place. Do not worry about your visiting us not suiting or the make-up of our household, as the contrast between this climate and yours is indescribable. Aristocrats and noblemen of Europe are living in tents with their families. I mean cloth tents as no others are used here. No, do not worry about there being no room for you; there is plenty. Your inquiry reminds me of a man who had just arrived from the East and stopped with a neighbor rancher of mine; the first night when bedtime came the stranger inquired where he could find room to sleep. "Why, sir," said the rancher in surprise, "I have a thousand acres here. Can't you find room on them to sleep?" As a rule Californians don't sleep always out in the open air, yet a majority of them prefer to. Indeed there is scarcely a family that does

not go camping during some season of the year. The last four months have been exceedingly pleasant, and was much enjoyed by campers and picnic people.

Flower and citrus fairs will claim the attention of all lovers of the sweet and beautiful during the next two months. At present horse racing is attracting considerable attention among lovers of that kind of stock on the race tracks of this coast.

The second rain of the season began falling yesterday and it is causing the flies to flock to the house in swarms as thick as smoke. Since the rain began, the roses and other flowers are opening out in good shape. The sunset clear, the robins, orioles and California mockingbirds are making the dark green shade trees tremble with their music; and the crickets, katydids and other insects are assisting with their kind of music this evening.

Honey is this year the lightest crop ever gathered in this section. Bee ranchers were greatly disappointed because the honey season opened most promisingly; but the weather grew cold during June and July so that the bees did not work, and the drying east wind that followed soon dried up the honey in the sweet flowers leaving the poor bees to live on grapes and other fruit. If we gather figs now, we must take them by the stem as the blossom end is likely to have a dozen honey bees extracting a living at that end of the fig.

Pomegranates are ripening and our loquats are nearly half grown, guavas will be ripe in February and loquats ripen a few weeks later. These fruits are principally used to make jellies. Summer in all its loveliness is prevailing in our section. Flitting season is about over and ranchers are done sowing barley. About all the various crops are harvested which were quite bountiful here.

The first rain of the season fell here Sept. 28th, which put the bean ranchers in motion; and they did up their bean harvesting in good shape and time, being about two months earlier than any year heretofore. The acreage was greater than ever, consequently the amount of beans raised exceeded any previous year; but the yield per acre was not as heavy as some seasons. Prices of beans are nearly double that of

last season, hence farmers are quite flush here, are paying their debts and investing in real estate. Real estate is still advancing, very little can be bought for less than two hundred dollars per acre and unimproved for that price; improved land sells in large bodies at from five hundred to a thousand dollars per acre and upwards in Santa Clara Valley. Fruit lands in the canyons are selling for much less, most of which are being planted to orange, lemon and prune. One of the largest orange orchards in our county is to be found in O'Hara Canyon containing over eight thousand trees; water is conveyed to every tree by iron pipes. At night the whole orchard is illuminated by natural gas which flows out of oil tunnels through pipes to all parts of the orchard. I wish you could view this orchard as it is considered by all who have seen it as the grandest sight they ever saw after night. It reminded me of Pittsburg under gaslight.

Orange harvest is approaching, quite a number have been shipped during the last few days but orange harvest won't open in earnest for shipping till after the holidays. Our orange and lemon trees are bended to the ground with their burden of bright green, half grown fruit. This is said to be the most promising crop of citrus fruit ever grown here. The grape crop is unusually large, and the crop will soon be all gathered. The raisin ranchers are running their wagons loaded with raisins to the depot to ship east to be there for the holidays. A train loaded with dried peaches left our station for New York last week, and several trains loaded with lima beans shipped for Boston and other eastern cities during last month. The crop of English walnuts was the heaviest and finest our section ever produced, and are selling at good prices. I contracted for two hundred dollars worth of young English walnut trees that I shall transplant next February. They are selling much lower now than any time since the boom closed in southern Cal. The walnuts are selling for two hundred dollars per ton; several carloads have been shipped east from orchards in this vicinity.

Prune orchards yielded the largest income of any crop produced here this season, which was from \$300.00 to five hundred dollars per acre. I have been interrupted a great many times since I began writing this letter that it is

doubtful whether you will be able to decipher the language or comprehend my meaning.

Gardening has begun in earnest: a twenty-acre patch is just planted to cabbage; and another patch of the same size is planted to corn, beans, peas, potatoes and a thousand other kinds of vegetables, most of them are now in bloom. String beans and green peas are being shipped east now from here. Strawberries are plenty and cheap. Strawberry pie is quite common with all ranchers here at present.

Our present rain is quite promising as it seems to continue. Hay has declined one fourth in price since yesterday, as enough rain has fallen to assure stock ranchers of a start of new feed in the hills; as well as it gives confidence to the other ranchers who had begun to grumble about the weather fearfully. Some of the stock ranges were burnt over leaving no feed for their stock.

Bro. Josiah still is in the butcher business. He uses seven horses and runs two delivery wagons daily. He and his men board at the Charles Hotel and lodge in his office adjoining his meat market which is close to the depot of the Southern Pacific Railway. His trade is very good and increasing. Bro. Mac has been acting majordomo on the Overmire Ranch. Today he is making cider for us, while Sara is busy preparing meat currants, raisins, apples and spices for mince pies. A few minutes since a huge gopher snake jumped down off of a shelf in the kitchen where it had been hunting for mice. It frightened Sara as she was only a few feet from where it struck the floor; then said it sounded like a big liver of a beef falling on the floor and urged me to kill it simply because she took a big scare at his big snakeship. We never kill gopher snakes for they are harmless, innocent and useful in destroying mice, kangaroo rats, weasels, gophers, rabbits, birds, badgers and other pests that swarm in our orchards and fields. Indeed we value one of these snakes as highly as you would a good rat killing cat. This is all the kind of snake we have in our valley. But the deadly rattlesnake lives in the foothills and mountains which surround our valley, yet none have ever been seen down in our valley. Most of the residents have never seen a rattlesnake of the California type, in fact there are very few who do care to

see them. I have known several men and boys who resided in the foothills that were bitten by rattlesnakes who died instantly. No one who has been bitten survives.

Should say you are quite successful in cultivating chickens. Here chickens sell for six to nine dollars per dozen, and eggs from forty-five to fifty-five cents per doz. Butter is selling in this vicinity from eighty to a dollar. Potatoes are very plenty and thousands of carloads are being shipped to Tennessee; they are sold here at \$1.25 and \$1.50 per cental. Sweet potatoes are very plenty and are selling at \$1.00 per cwt. Apples are selling slowly at \$1.00 per cwt. and pears at \$2.00 per cwt.

Probably you are tired of reading this uninteresting sheet. I had better close. Hoping it may find you improving in health and learning. Please answer my inquiries at your earliest convenience.

With kindest regards to you and friends.

I remain, Yours truly,
S. J. Alexander

NEW

M
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P

Mr. and Mrs. James Alderson
Mrs. Edna K. Brady
Mr. and Mrs. Dave Eggenschwiller
Mrs. Arline Hume
Mrs. Jessie T. Woodruff

Gary Rafferty
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Runkle
Mr. and Mrs. Bert Seymour
Mrs. E. R. Treiberg

LIFE

Philip Bard
Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Borchard
Henry M. Borchard
Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Burnham
Mrs. E. C. Canet
Mrs. Leonore Cousen
Mrs. Harold Dudley
Mrs. Rosemary H. Duncan
Mrs. Joyce Totten Fraser
Marjorie A. Fraser
Mrs. Katherine H. Haley
John F. Henning
Walter Wm. Hoffman
Mrs. Helene Holve
Carmen Camarillo Jones

David Adolpho Lamb
John Burkett Lamb
Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. Lamb
Robert B. Lamb III
Mrs. Edwin J. Marshall
Mr. and Mrs. William J. Mason
Eulialee McMullen
Capt. and Mrs. R. N. Miller III
A. A. Milligan
Robert G. Naumann
Mrs. Mary H. Norcop
Mr. and Mrs. Francis Petit
Grace S. Thille
Harry Valentine
Richard D. Willett

SUSTAINING

William H. Cook
Dr. and Mrs. Samuel R. Edwards
Elizabeth Leonard
Kenneth C. Murphy

Mr. and Mrs. Lester T. Shiells
Mr. and Mrs. Henry E. Stead
Mr. and Mrs. Milton M. Teague
Katherine Bard Wollman

Half a Century of Service

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VENTURA
COUNTY
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
QUARTERLY

Vol. XIX, No. 3

Spring 1974

Ventura County Historical Society

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The Ventura County Historical Society *Quarterly*

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Grant W. Heil, Editor

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From the Ventura Signal

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STAGECOACHES

By Edward Borein

Notice

The pictures were supplied by the Pioneer Museum and David W. Hill, who also collated the photographs.

The files of the *Signal* are in the Pioneer Museum; the sketches of Ed Borein belong to E. Wm. Jackson, M.D.



Edge of town, 1877

Staging and Stations on the Santa Clara

VENTURA TO SOLEDAD¹

It was early morning when we drove out of Ventura. The sea and the great sentinels that guard the swelling waves were just throwing off their night robes of mist, and faintly came the sound of the dashing surf on the beach. But soon we ceased to hear what the wild waves were saying as we drove rapidly up the Santa Clara Valley. To one like myself, fresh from the prosaic prairies of Iowa and Illinois, the scenes about me were fascinating indeed. Towering above us on either side were mountains, scarred and rock-ribbed, which were of every shade of rich brown and soft silvery gray; those of the far off Sespe showing the deep royal purple. In the valley were waving cornfields of which any Illinois farmer might feel proud, and stacks of grain and ricks of hay.

After leaving Saticoy we passed neat cottages surrounded with beautiful trees and flowers. But this is not the season to see the orchards and gardens looking their prettiest unless they have been irrigated, as many in the valley have not. The inevitable dust continually reminded me of my mortality. 'Earth to earth, and dust to dust' kept ringing in my ears, as in clouds like Pharaoh's mist it came behind and like the cloudy pillar it went before; yet it did not destroy the beauty of the changing scenery, though I confess it marred it somewhat.

The little town of Santa Paula, which we reached early in the day, seems to be a growing town with a fine school house; and from what I could learn of its people, I think it must be a delightful place to live; it is far enough from the sea to escape heavy winds and is quite elevated. After a short rest we started again from Santa Paula, passing bands of sheep feeding on the stubble and clover burrs and a few pretty farm houses nestled at the foot of the mountains and near the running creek. We also passed droves of cattle,

hundreds in number, which proved to me that California is indeed rich in livestock. Just after noon we crossed the Sespe, the only stream worth the name of river I have seen in California. Just on the east bank, under the shade of a great sycamore, is Mr. F. A. Sprague's hospitable house. His location is charming with its dense shade, prolific soil and romantic surroundings; he has also abundance of pure and comparatively cold water. I say comparatively, for I have as yet found no cold water in the state. The growth of vegetation in California seems past belief: on Mr. Sprague's place there are grape vines of the tender varieties (Black Hamburg, Tokay, etc.) of two years growth, now hanging full of great clusters of grapes a foot long and weighing several pounds; a little grove of acacia trees near the house planted a year ago, which are now sixteen feet high; and a walnut tree, three years old, sends branches eighteen feet from the ground.

Early next morning we bade our new friends of the Sespe adieu, and soon were at the famous Camulos where inviting shade and delicious fruits tempted us to rest a few moments. A pretty daughter of Don Ygnacio del Valle, the owner and founder of the Camulos vineyard and orchard, acted as our guide as we passed through it. Here were golden oranges and lemons weighing down the branches of glossy green, great almond trees with their heavy burdens, grapes, pears and fruits of all kinds. The roses have almost ceased to bloom.

But Soledad had to be reached before night, so I was forced to tear myself away from this delightful spot. On our way to Lyon's Station I saw but little signs of civilization, the great landholders being the cause. Late in the afternoon, we stopped under the shade of a great live oak and found already another 'weary traveller'. We were soon joined by three other teams from different directions; one driven by an Italian, another by a Mongolian and another by an American boy. It was a strange meeting of races. China stared stupidly while Italy talked eloquently and displayed a wonderful knowledge of this country. The Spanish-American talked with his eyes only while young America, with true Yankee curiosity, attempted to discover the destination and



Camulos garden

business of each of us by shrewd questions. It was a strange intervention in life's paths, a meeting of this nature without an intent in common. A few moments would carry us each on our separate paths. Truly this is a cosmopolitan country.

We soon drove on and quickly found ourselves at Lyon's Station, a charmingly located place, at which there is a post-office, telegraph office and hotel all in one. Here are also extensive oil works, and gold mines up the cañon. Great teams with their little chimes of musical bells, the daily stages with their four horses and dashing drivers are constantly passing this place making it a lively one. Here were men from all parts of the United States and all nationalities, representing mining interests, etc. From here I took Sam Harper's stage for Soledad, and this ride of twenty-eight miles was through the wildest and most picturesque scenery of our route. The road winding through cañons and over mountains, across dashing mountain streams and under dark spreading glossy-leaved live oaks. We were here in the vicinity of the haunts of the famous Vasquez, where one might indeed expect to be called upon to halt and deliver. But no adventure of the kind occurred; and I am half sorry, for with the recounting of it I could have made this letter more interesting than it is. I rode in the moonlight, and was continually astonished at some new and unlooked for romantic feature in the ever changing scenery.

A sudden curve brought us all suddenly into the little settlement called Soledad which is nestled lovingly in a cañon at the foot of the mountain. On every side the voice is broken by great overhanging rocks, scarred and seared by time. On the south is a long, low flat bounded by a little flashing stream shaded by trembling-leaved cottonwoods, graceful willows and sturdy oaks (beyond the mountains again, a circle complete). One hotel, store, blacksmith shop, school house and a few dwellings constitute the remnant of a once flourishing mining settlement. So much I saw in the light of an August moon.

LYON'S STATION²

While at Lyon's Station last week we visited the oil wells of that vicinity, satisfying ourselves of the truth in regard to the floating rumors of the immense source of wealth buried in the mountains at this point. Our party consisted of four in number, under the guidance of Captain Kraszynski who has large interests in the Clara and Danbury claims located there. A carriage drive winds along the foot of the mountains and for some distance up the cañon where the oil springs first make their appearance. They are almost numberless, the oil spreading over the ground in all directions. This oil has been pronounced by experts to be of the finest quality. We were told the existence of these springs has been known for many years, the oil being bottled for medicinal purposes, without a suspicion of its being petroleum until quite recently. Here, under the branches of lofty trees, amid the silence and loneliness of nature, is one of the greatest resources of wealth of southern California.

After proceeding up the cañon, as far as the drive would permit, we mounted on little ponies and rode up the narrow defile to the boiling springs which presented a very interesting appearance. The basins of the springs are several feet in diameter and in a state of violent ebullition as diabolical in appearance as the witches' caldron in *Macbeth*, needing but the presence of Hecate and her wierd band to realize that horrible creation of poetic fancy.

We proceeded up this cañon for some miles, the scenery growing wilder at every turn. Vistas of light broke through the pines that crown the mountains towering above us on each side several hundred feet. Then the springs increased at every point, the oil oozing through the crevices of the rocks on every side. The water here is exceedingly bitter, and the ground fairly covered with the black tarry substance.

Future developments will show the immense wealth of these springs. We were told by reliable parties Carreras had, by his new process of refining, realized forty percent from the B. S. (below standard) oil, showing it to be richer than even the Pennsylvania and West Virginia oils.

SOLEDAD CANYON³

By G. W. Coffin of the A. & P. R.R.

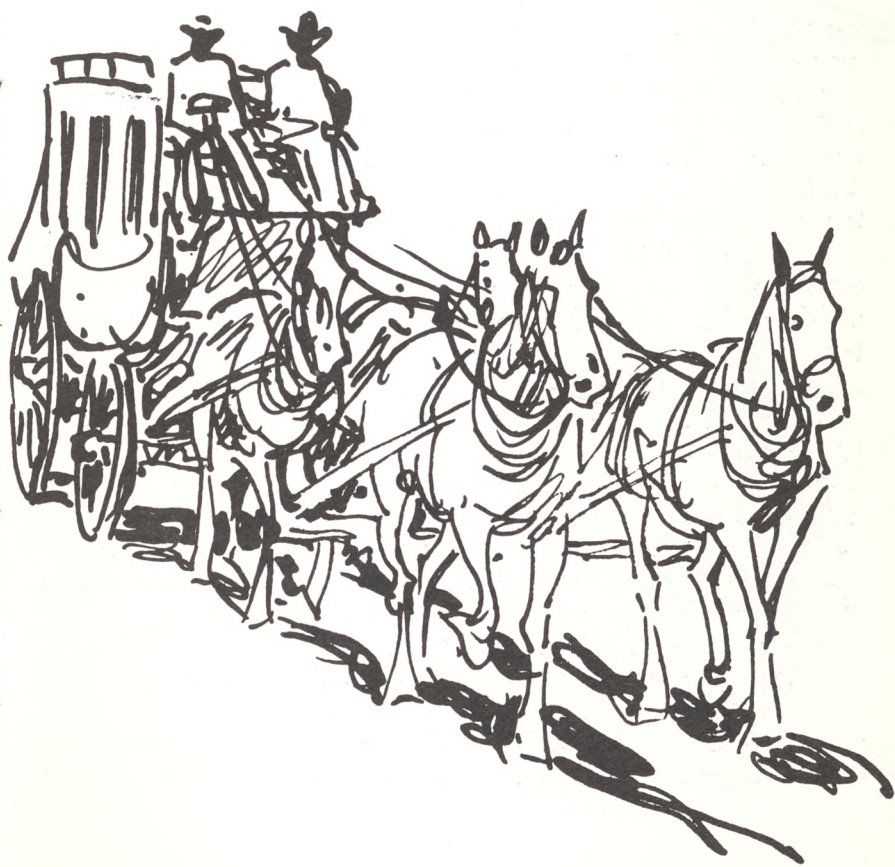
There may be many places one finds in the course of a lifetime that are *soledad*, or solitary (the true English of the word). But this particular one is worthy of more than passing notice as, at no distant day, it may become a place of so much life that a new name will be required. It may be as well to give the latitude and longitude (not so much to keep mariners from sailing into it as to benefit such of your readers as may wish to cross the Mojave Desert lying between here and the Colorado River) latitude $34\frac{1}{2}$ north, and longitude $118\frac{1}{2}$ west. It is due east from Santa Barbara 81 miles and due north from Los Angeles 20 miles, straight lines in both cases of course. By wagon road from the coast of Ventura it is about 65 miles. Elevation 2,400 feet above tide water. It is a terminus of the Santa Clara Valley or more properly of the narrow cañon at the head of it, which is termed Soledad Pass. For twenty miles this pass is narrow and tortuous, the mountains on either side being high and irregular. After traversing this distance it opens on the upper Santa Clara valley at Lang's and continues for ten miles when the valley proper commences.

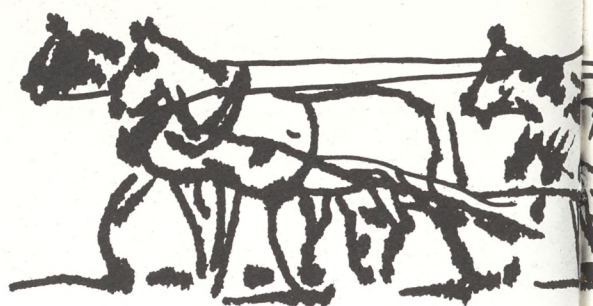
Twelve miles from the desert at Barrel Springs and eight miles from the mouth of the pass at Lang's are twelve or fifteen buildings that go to make up the town of Soledad. It is not an old town, not like the old Mexican towns with a mission and adobe houses with tile roofs. It is the offshoot of a mining town of 1,000 inhabitants that existed a few years ago, about two miles up the pass, called Ravena. The last fragments of Ravena gravitated this way, and Soledad began. Although it cannot boast a church, it has no prison but has a school house, two stores, a hotel, a blacksmith shop and nearby are two large quartz mills. There is quite a sprinkling of Mexicans in its population, among whom the name of Vasquez⁴ has most notoriety just now.

The traveler up the Santa Clara Valley will look in vain for a place where the immediate natural surroundings are more attractive than at Soledad. Cultivation, irrigation and much labor has made Camulos most delightful but nature

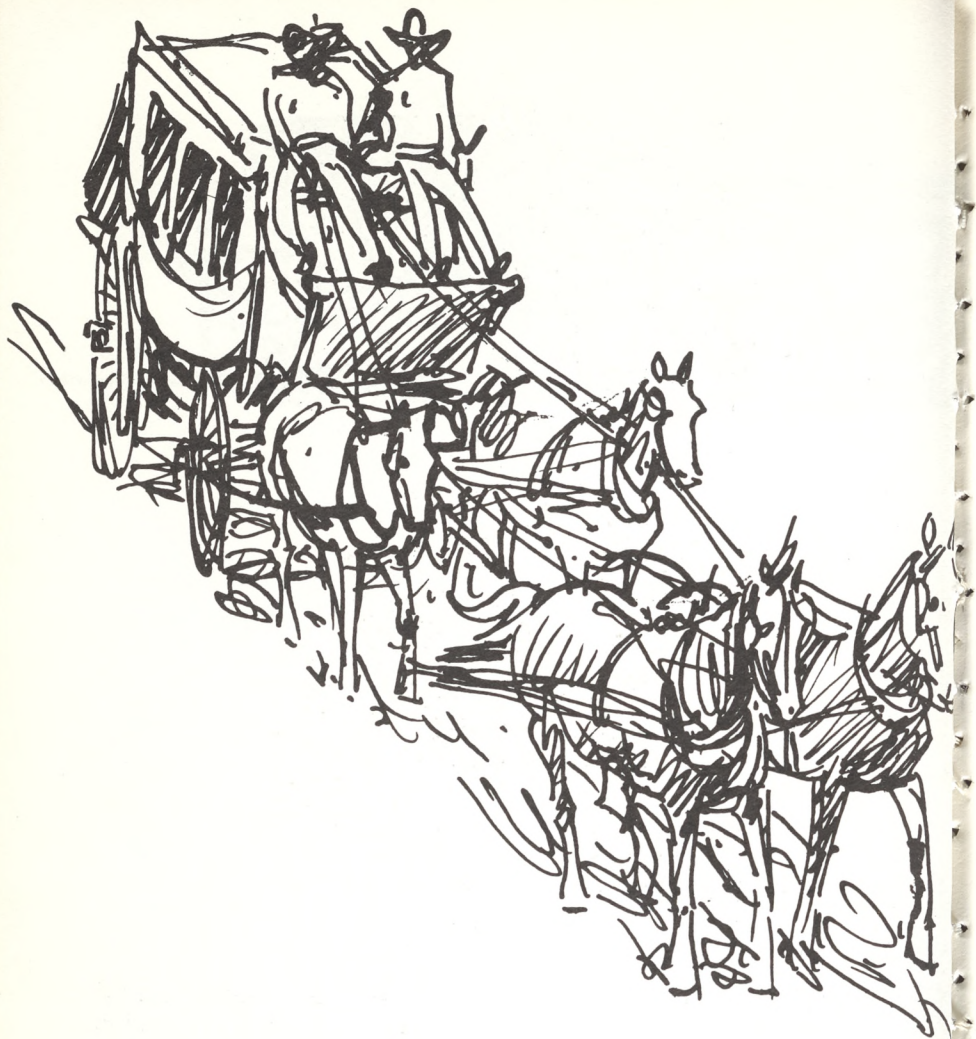
Stagecoaches

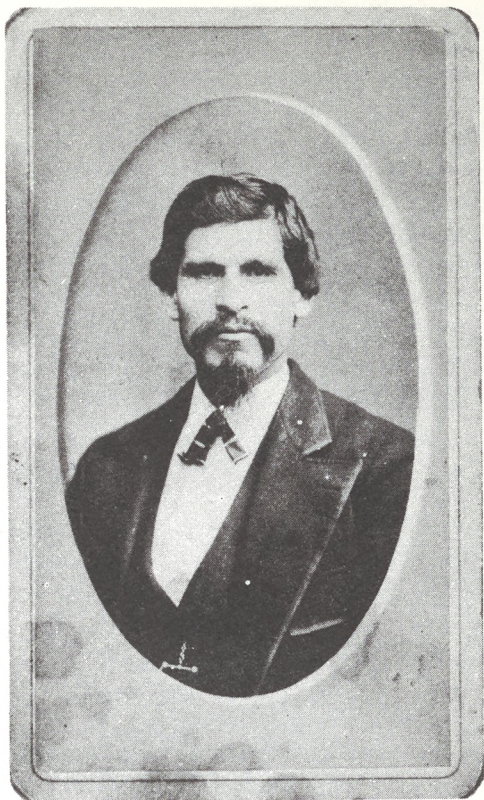
EDWARD
BOREIN











Tiburcio Vasquez

has done the same for Soledad. Here is a little senega,^s a half mile wide and a mile and a half long, where a thousand springs of sweet cold water bubble to the surface. Invited by the moisture the willow, buttonwood and sycamore have spread their leafy canopies over the greensward, from which they draw their sustenance. Their cool shades invite the birds from the mountain's barren sides, while bands of wild horses and mules with herds of gaunt, anxious looking cattle, come a long way over the sandy plains to slake their thirst at these cool springs. Even the mountains seem to have crowded around, with their heads high lifted in the clear bright air, bent forward to catch a glimpse of its loveliness.

SOLEDAD°

Under the dark shadows of moonlit rocks, and with the towering pine-clad mountains closing around us, Soledad sleeps tonight in silence. We have just returned from a day's journey to More's ranch. Seated with the driver of six fiery mustangs upon the big red stage, we dashed recklessly up Soledad Cañon with a strange sense of exhilaration and life thrilling to our very finger ends. A feeling that, with another driver than Sam Harper, might have deepened into a sense of danger; but he handles the reins with a skill almost marvelous, and he has a local reputation that would be the envy of any Englishman upon Derby day.

Soledad Cañon winds through the mountains, seemingly shut in with a living wall upon four sides; yet one opening follows another, a labyrinth of picturesque curves and views in succession for many miles. High above us the rocks stood out under the stars grand and majestic, the capricious work of long gone ages. One, 'The Sphynx' we have named it, a perfect head standing out in bold relief with a mass of ruins towering up behind, seemed tonight to frown in awful majesty. We dashed by passing the quartz mill whose great wheels stood motionless through the long days and nights, telling of the once prosperous times when this little settlement was the busy scene of life and activity. Not far from us are the Eureka Mines, deserted and desolate, abandoned for the lack of water yet holding in their yawning depths the shining particles that will yet pass current over this broad continent.

More's ranch is some distance up Soledad Cañon and is the admiration of us all from its wonderfully wild and picturesque scenery, and also somewhat famous as being the spot where 'Tex' was shot by Chavez' some weeks since. The tree under which the shooting affray took place stands quietly in the sunlight, its waving branches telling naught of the tragical story. This spot seems indeed suited for wild and daring deeds, it being lonely in the extreme, and strangely beautiful. The rocks have taken their fantastic shapes; wrought upon by the action of angry waters; masses of slate and shale thrown upon each other in countless shapes. Enor-



Six-horse stage

mous boulders lie at the base where a stream must once have swept with frightful velocity. Slender spires and towers shoot up from some spots while others lie a mass of shapeless ruins, hundred feet in height; and all around the landscape is faultless and marvelous in its sublime beauty.

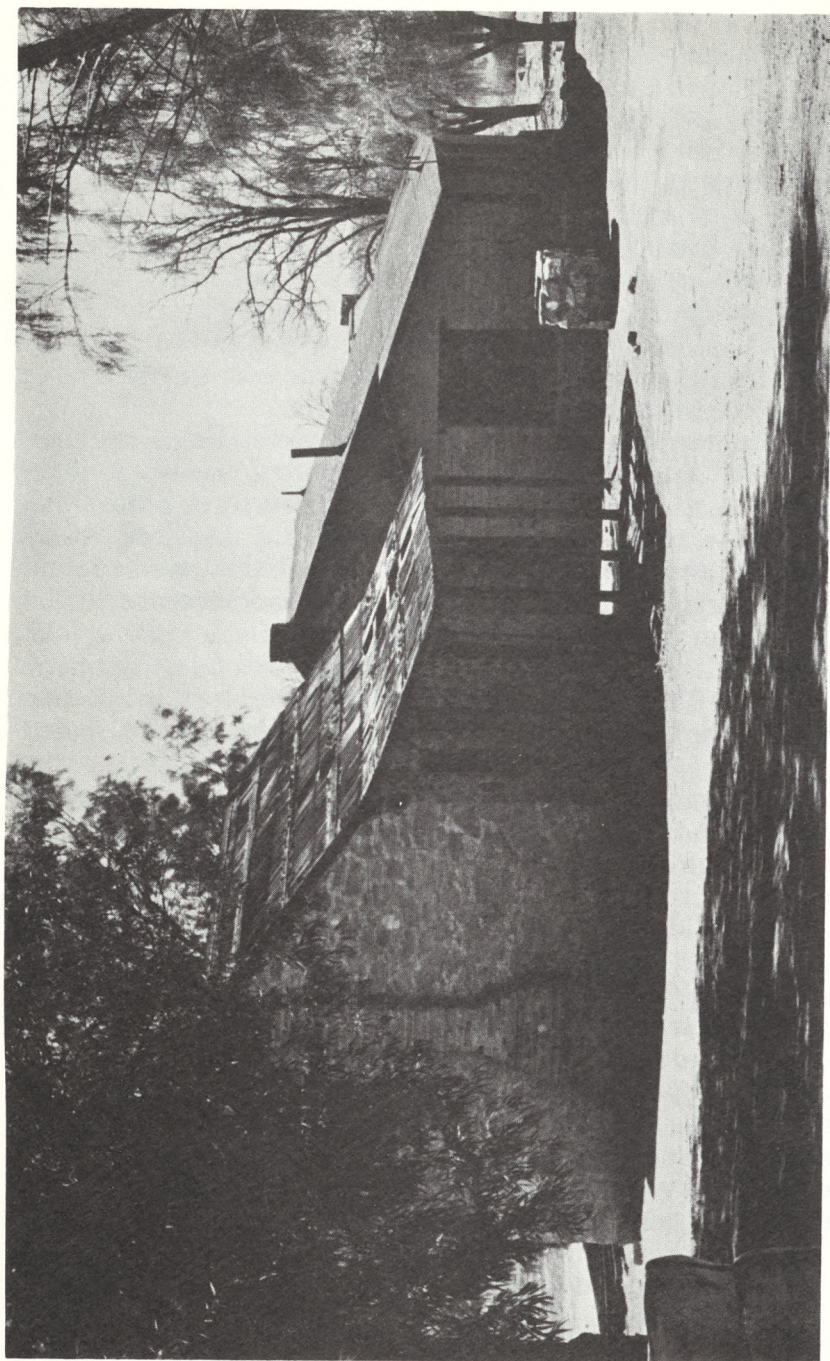
Soledad has in its vicinity many places of interest to visit; and while one would judge from its name it would be exceedingly solitary, yet it is the daily scene of life and activity. Being on the direct and only route from the Cerro Gordo mines, an immense amount of freight and bullion passes through here as well as all the borax from the lakes above; and we have comers and goers from all parts of the globe.

Sam Harper's store at this point is well patronized; and our little school is in a flourishing condition. From the beauty of the situation, and the extreme healthfulness of the place, it attracts many people. Being 2200 feet above the level of the sea the air is pure as refined gold and the water is cold as ice, which gladdens the heart of thirsty travelers and is a treasure untold to its inhabitants. This place from its peculiarly fortunate location must always be an important one and without doubt must soon be built up until it becomes, instead of the unpretending village it now is, a flourishing town. If the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad is ever built, it must pass through this place. Some day the great stone walls which shut us in will echo back the scream of the locomotive's whistle and the rumble of cars laden with produce and rich minerals.

LYON'S TO CALIENTE*

For the first time I tried the trip to San Francisco by stage and cars via Caliente and Lyon's Station. From Ventura to Lyon's the distance is about sixty miles, the road a good one and the stage, though drawn by two pretty good horses, is in my opinion rather a one-horse affair. At Lyon's Station I had to lay over from 9 o'clock in the evening till next morning at 6 o'clock. After trying in vain to partake of the miserable supper spread before me, I gave it up and retired to a bed in keeping with the table. At 6 o'clock the stage from Los Angeles arrived, which was to convey us to the present railway terminus, Caliente.

The passengers from Los Angeles were four in number, one of whom I recognized as our mutual friend, Sanford Campbell accompanied by his lady. They were both much surprised and embarrassed to meet me. I inquired which way they were going, and was informed they were bound for Ventura. This was too much; so I had recourse to the stage driver and his waybill where I was much enlightened. I found they were billed for San Francisco under the name of 'Mr. I. D. Bure and wife'. As the Ventura stage was about leaving I hastened to dispatch a postal card to Sheriff Stone, acquainting him with the circumstances in case he should have occasion to seek the migratory man of many names. When the San Francisco passengers were getting into the stage, Mr. Campbell and his wife were among the number; but seeing I was bound in the same direction, they evidently did not relish my company and accordingly Mrs. C. was taken suddenly ill and was absolutely unable to continue the journey further than More's Station where the pair got out. I think Mr. Campbell had watched my movements, had seen me scribble something on a card and probably requested the postmaster to open the mailbag in order to fully satisfy himself. Being satisfied in that part of his investigations, he must ascertain which way I was bound: which he could only do by an experiment, so he pursued his journey. When he saw me enter the stage, he no doubt thought a telegram from Ventura would intercept him, in which case I would be a very unpleasant companion should his identifi-



Willow Springs

Willow Springs

cation as the Ventura bill^a be necessary. From Charley More's Station we continued our journey minus the society of I. D. Bure and wife.

After traversing a long cañon we arrived at Elizabeth Lake, a mud puddle about one-fourth of a mile wide and half a mile long. We reached Willow Springs, a station in the desert, about 2 o'clock. Sage brush and mammoth cactus from 15 to 25 feet high on every hand was the only vegetation to be seen. The station is named from a good spring of clear water bubbling out of the ground and an imaginary grove of willows, probably Ventura Cañon reflected in a mirage. The table at Willow Springs was an agreeable disappointment; it was fully up in style and variety to anything in Ventura or Los Angeles. The landlady knows how to keep hotel, and makes good use of her knowledge. The rooms and sleeping accommodations are fully up to the standard, and one stopping here over night cannot help being comfortable. The outside surroundings are not calculated to interest an observer for any length of time. The cactus referred to above is the tallest I ever saw, and very much resembles our famous palm trees. We resumed our journey from Willow Springs in good spirits after our dinner which had to last us until we got out of the desert. The wind seems to blow on the desert incessantly, and the climate is very similar to that of Iowa and Minnesota. After leaving the desert we enjoyed a warmer climate as we neared Caliente. About two miles this side of Caliente, at about 9 o'clock p.m., the stage was stopped and Wells, Fargo & Co.'s box called for. The driver seeing himself surrounded by quite a number of gentlemen granted the polite request. The knights of the road were not yet satisfied but insisted on the driver producing another box, the driver as stoutly denying the existence of another box. After considerable wrangling the leader of the highwaymen asked the driver if on the honor of a gentleman there was no other box, to which the driver gave a satisfactory reply and he was ordered to drive on. There were six passengers in the stage, all unarmed; and as we had our curtains drawn on account of the wind, we could not see whether there were two or twenty highwaymen.

The distance from Lyon's Station to Caliente is about

85 miles, making the staging by this route about 150 miles. Leaving Caliente at 10 o'clock in the evening we arrived at San Francisco the next afternoon at 1 o'clock. I left Ventura at 11 o'clock Friday, and consumed 50 hours making the trip; the expense may be summed up as follows:

Ticket from Ventura to San Francisco	\$24.00
Dinner at Santa Paula50
Supper, lodging and breakfast at Lyon's	1.50
Dinner at Willow Springs50
Sleeping car from Caliente to Lathrop	1.50
Breakfast at Lathrop50

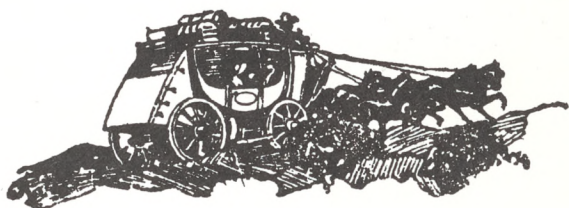
Total from Ventura to San Francisco \$28.75

I give you these items thinking they may be of interest to some of your readers to know which is the most pleasant and cheapest route. I think the ocean route preferable, even if a person is a little disposed to seasickness. A hundred and fifty miles of stage travel, part of it through a windy desert, takes all the poetry out of the trip even if there should be any in it. The money difference in favor of the steamers is \$16.75.

When we arrived at Caliente, we learned that the same stage had been robbed last Tuesday night, the spoils in the express box amounting to \$90. The amount contained in the last robbery is unknown to your humble servant.

FOOTNOTES

1. Ventura *Signal*; August 15, 1874.
2. Ventura *Signal*; September 19, 1874.
3. Ventura *Signal*; October 18, 1873.
4. Tiburcio Vasquez, last of the 'Mexican bandits'.
5. I.e. *cienea*, a swamp.
6. Ventura *Signal*; September 19, 1874.
7. Cleovaro Chavez, lieutenant of Tiburcio Vasquez.
8. Ventura *Signal*; December 11, 1875.
9. Swindler who cheats by evading payment.



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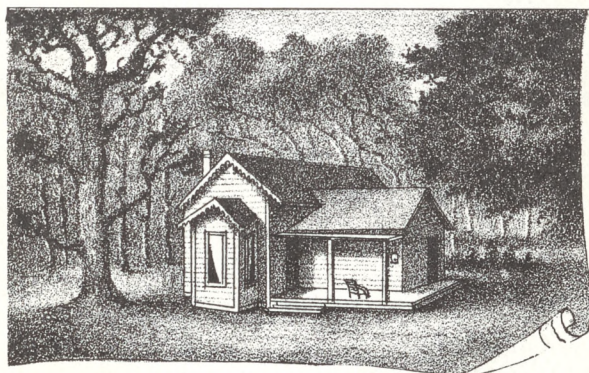
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One Hundred Years Ago
A Town Was Platted In
The OJAI
Called
NORDHOFF

1874

1974



Ventura County Historical Society Quarterly
Vol. XIX, No. 4 Summer 1974

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In Memoriam

RAFELITA ORTEGA PHILBRICK

April 27, 1890 — July 13, 1974

Rafelita, as all her friends knew her, was a descendant of the Spanish dons and a long-time resident of Ventura where she was born. A charter member of the Ventura County Historical Society, she had also belonged to the Pioneer Society, worked in the Pioneer Museum and contributed to the *Quarterly*.

The Ventura County Historical Society *Quarterly*

Vol. XIX, No. 4

Summer 1974

Grant W. Heil, Editor

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OJAI ITEMS

From the Signal

THE FIRST OJAI BOOM AND SINGULAR CHARACTERS

By John Montgomery

Notice

Dr. Baur teaches California history at California State University, Northridge. David W. Hill collated the pictures from the Ventura County Historical Collection and the Pioneer Museum which also has the files of the *Signal*. John Montgomery wrote for the *Ojai*; the bound volumes are in the Ojai Library.

CHARLES NORDHOFF

Publicist Par Excellence

By John E. Baur

A third of a century after Charles Nordhoff died and more than six decades after he had written his most famous book about southern California a Los Angeles writer could still assert that historians credited his volume with sending more settlers to the region than "anything else ever written about this section"! ¹ Many visitors attest to the truthfulness of that statement.² One British tourist carried the book to southern California in 1881 rather than any of Bret Harte's long-famous classics.³ That much-read work, *California: for health, pleasure, and residence*, appeared in 1872 and was soon translated into French, German and Spanish in a condensed version.⁴

What Nordhoff publicized is, of course, far better known than he is today for California has been developed through advertising more than any other section of our nation. This exceptional man was born far from the Golden State in Erwitte, Westphalia, Prussia on August 31, 1830. At the age of five he came to America where his formal education was brief. Charles attended school in Cincinnati but at thirteen was apprenticed to a printer. Next year he became a compositor in Philadelphia. One might hastily conclude that a long, unbroken career in literature thus commenced in his early teens; but this was far from so. First the youth would gain experience through manual labor and world travel.

In 1844 he enlisted in the United States Navy. It was not unusual then for a boy of fourteen to go to sea, as youngsters had for many centuries past. Later he would write an intriguing, autobiographical work about his formative years on deck and in the rigging.⁵ During Charles' three years in the navy he sailed around the world, and then signed on to serve several years more aboard merchant vessels engaged in whaling and mackerel fishing. From these rugged experiences he later wrote three volumes of sea adventures. Sailing strengthened his body and mind, helped him develop a keen and accurate observation of people, ports and events,

and a sympathy and understanding for ordinary people in many trades. These attributes typified the extensive literary output of his mature years.⁶

At seventeen Charles Nordhoff made his first visit to California, an event that he would always vividly remember:

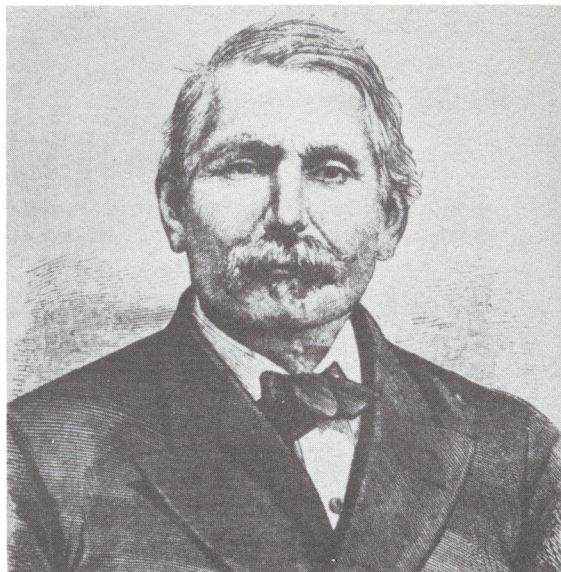
I first saw its pleasant shores at Monterey, then the Capital, in March, 1847; and later wandered over Yerba Buena, now your San Francisco, when it had about sixty houses, mostly adobe. The ship in which I was a boy was short of flour, and we paid \$37.50 per barrel to get what we needed. Already about twenty years ago [1873] this State was fast becoming one of the great wheat regions of the world. In 1847 the very few Americans in California who wished and could afford for their children some education were obliged to send them to school in Honolulu. Now [1893] California has a most admirable and thorough school system.⁷

Leaving the sea young Nordhoff went to New York City where in 1857 he got a job as an editor for Harper and Brothers. After a few years' experience with that publishing firm he became managing editor of the New York *Evening post* in 1861, a position he held for a decade.

To gather data on the Pacific coast and particularly to get sound material on the underdeveloped area of southern California which had barely been touched by the magic of the Gold Rush farther north, Nordhoff revisited California in 1871-72, and came first to know the 'Southland' as later boosters would call it.⁸ By that period his literary style was fully developed, and so were his lifetime objectives. Nordhoff was a strongly religious and patriotic man. These traits were perhaps best revealed in his books, *God and the future life* (1883) and *Politics for young Americans* (1875). Nordhoff's style was consistently straight and forceful, characterized by short, uncomplicated sentences, reflecting his direct personality.⁹

Charles Fletcher Lummis, himself a booster of southern California with a zest well beyond the conventional and a man whose later efforts owed much to Nordhoff's pioneering in this enthusiastic type of journalism, said that "He was of a day, and large in it, when journalism was really a profession and not a mere cold-blooded coining machine".¹⁰ Speaking of Nordhoff's several volumes, Lummis explained:

Edward
Fitzgerald
Beale



His books were rather those of the newspaper than the literary man; and he despised the affectations of the stylists. His English was remarkably clear, simple and competent; his judgment of men and policies so accurate that he was widely trusted; his 'facts' so carefully verified as used to be essential in newspapering; and his point of view broad. He was one of the best-believed 'Washington correspondents' this country ever had; and in that capacity and as a traveling correspondent of the *New York Herald* had a rare reputation.¹¹

Nordhoff's *California* grew out of his visit of 1871-72. His carefully transcribed impressions were first published in the *New York Herald* and collected into an article in *Harper's magazine* in 1872. They reappeared that year in a medium-sized volume published by Harper and Brothers. This minor classic of Californiana was subtitled *A book for travellers and settlers*. Nordhoff dedicated it to his California friend, the Indian agent, rancher, explorer and Mexican War hero, General Edward F. Beale: In memory of pleasant days at the Tejon. In his interesting preface, Nordhoff said of California that only there might one enjoy the tropics "without their penalties; a mild climate, not enervating, but healthful and health restoring; a wonderfully and variously productive soil, without tropical malaria; the grand-

est scenery, with perfect security and comfort in traveling arrangements".¹² He estimated that for every California-bound American, twenty went to Europe and for everyone who saw Yosemite, a hundred had seen the Alps and a thousand had viewed Paris. Although Nordhoff never hit on the phrase 'See American first', later coined by his fellow booster, Charles F. Lummis, he expressed its spirit in declaring that an American who had never toured the Great Plains, the Great Salt Lake, the Sierra Nevada and "the wonders of California" had not really seen his own nation and had no sound idea of its greatness.¹³ His descriptions of the advantages attracting eastern residents to California perfectly fitted the Ojai Valley whose residents soon would name their chief town for him. Before the decade had ended, Ojai would blossom as a health resort where the "health and pleasure" of Nordhoff's title made "residence" a foregone recommendation.¹⁴ Again and again he spoke of the mild winter climate, noting that the wintertime extremes which eastern Americans endured were lacking here.¹⁵

Nordhoff's timing was virtually perfect. Southern California was about to be touched by the magic of railroad communication, for the Central Pacific's interior line would reach south to Los Angeles in 1876, just when Nordhoff's guidebook and its later variations had attained national fame and world attention. By then American affluence had expanded enough to provide a ready market for his hoped-for influx of tourists, invalids and residents. Soon, therefore, he would become the darling of railroads and realtors.

Interestingly, although our traveling journalist was sincerely enthralled by southern California's geographical blessings and impressed by the financial and mechanical progress made since his boyhood voyage, he had to admit privately to Hubert Howe Bancroft, California's prime historian of that era, that, "The atmosphere of California is so foreign to literary pursuits, the minds of the people so much more intent on gold-getting and social pleasures than on intellectual culture and the investigations of historical or abstract subjects" that he was amazed that Bancroft could have been inspired to achieve so much solid brain work!¹⁶ In this, at least, Nordhoff erred mightily. Accustomed to the obvious

mental bustle of Eastern cities, he naively overlooked the fact that San Francisco for a quarter-century had been a "literary frontier" of unique achievement, as Franklin Walker, its interpreter, has so ably told us.¹⁷ Ironically, too, the 'Southland' of San Diego, Los Angeles and Ventura Counties would experience a special intellectual awakening, partly resulting from the population growth that Nordhoff was then so avidly urging.

Before writing his study, Charles Nordhoff had taken particular note of southern California's agricultural possibilities; and as a friend of the common man from whose ranks he had emerged but never separated himself, he hoped the region would develop as one of small homes and farms where people of modest incomes could regain both health and prosperity. He saw here an avenue of escape from the personal tragedies of the hard times of the 1870's. Therefore, Nordhoff's text offered detailed, practical data on the costs of land, equipment, housing, schools and transportation.¹⁸

When his newly-issued book was criticized in the influential literary newsmagazine, *The Nation*, of December 5, 1872 the reviewer realized that it would have significant appeal:

Mr. Nordhoff is an excellent *racounteur*, with a simple and vigorous style, and something of the positiveness of a man who half expects his audience to put their tongues in their cheeks at which he is telling them. We believe, however, that the Easterner has now pretty much made up his mind to doubt no report, be it ever so marvelous, of the prodigies of the Pacific coast . . . If he had any purpose more than another in writing it, we should say it was to recommend the climate to invalids, and not to preach the superiority of agriculture to mining as a mean of comfortable living and even of affluence . . .

It is hard to say whether the colonist or the invalid will be most served by Mr. Nordhoff's descriptions of the Pacific province. The tourist is not neglected, either.¹⁹

During the next generation, this popular tome sold three million copies; for comparison note that the entire population of California in 1870 was only 560,247 and had grown to 1,485,053 by 1900. Yet for all the laudatory titles soon to be heaped upon their benefactor by grateful southern Californians, Charles Nordhoff was really not the "first California



Charles
Fletcher
Lummis

boomer". Bayard Taylor, a far more renowned man of letters, who toured the state in Gold Rush days; the Rev. Walter Colton, naval chaplain during the Mexican War and author of two absorbing works on California; and Navy Lt. Joseph Warren Revere, grandson of the famous patriot Paul, all had praised the golden land before it had reached statehood. Nordhoff, however, was the first to boom southern California, and not as a casual tourist or whimsical dilettante. He wrote determinedly as a professional. Charles Lummis knew well that Nordhoff was "the first man to give an adequate idea of the superiority of California as a home". He admitted that the enthusiastic pioneer was not always a perfect prophet; but most of the million settlers who moved to California during the nineteenth century's last quarter heartily agreed with Nordhoff's estimation of the area.²¹ Certainly Ventura County's residents appreciated "his felicitious word-picture of the Ojai Valley".²²

In summarizing Charles Nordhoff's impact, the Los Angeles *Times* editorialized in 1901:

It has been claimed by some that the descriptions given by Nordhoff of the profits of horticulture in Southern California were exaggerated. It should, however, be remarked that at the time when he wrote, the Wolfskill orange grove . . . was

about the only important bearing grove of citrus fruit trees in Southern California. Horticulture was in its embryo stage, and high prices were obtained . . . Take it as a whole, Nordhoff's book was a fair and reliable statement of conditions prevailing here at that time, and it was certainly a picturesque description of this section, from the standpoint of a visitor.

It is a somewhat curious fact that the two places in Southern California which seemed to have most impressed the late writer have not yet amounted to much, in a material way. Nordhoff, in Ventura county, which was named after him, is a beautiful and attractive health resort, but nothing more, and San Juan Capistrano, which he considered the most beautiful place in Southern California, shows little change from the days when the Indian neophytes gathered to worship in the old mission.

The work that Nordhoff commenced has since been taken up, on a vastly larged scale, by the press and by public bodies of Southern California. When Nordhoff wrote, there were no such agencies at work [Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce was not founded till 1888] and Southern California was almost a terra incognita. Let us give his memory the credit which is due to the pioneer boomer of the new Southwest.²³

Today few would agree with the *Time's* early estimation of Ojai Valley and San Juan Capistrano. In our time both have gracefully developed much as Nordhoff probably would have wished them for "health and residence", and especially for the latter. Fortunately overpopulation had not been their lot, as it has become for several southern California areas he spotlighted.

During the year following the publication of his booster work, Charles Nordhoff continued to write and travel. In 1876 he published *The Cotton States in the spring and summer of 1875*, the result of a journalistic tour of Reconstructed Dixie. Solid and sound, it was well received nationally for he (rare among newspapermen of our, his own or any day) was no apologist for any political party or section.

On one of Nordhoff's later visits to California, in August 1887, a fellow journalist interviewing him learned that he found more rest in traveling by train than other people do "in vegetating around watering places, and his visit to California is for the purpose of securing this much-needed recreation". Thus the candid writer was practicing what he preached, but with more vigor than the typical health seekers he had asked to "try California".²⁴



Charles
Nordhoff

In the minds of those familiar with Nordhoff's claim to fame on the Pacific coast, he is stereotyped as an imperturbable and naive booster; but this image is at least partly false. At the end of southern California's colorful Boom of the Eighties, indirectly caused by his efforts, he presented a critique on that psychological and economic phenomenon:

The boom was not altogether a bad thing for the communities in which it raged; but it was undoubtedly a sore disaster to many individuals. I was vigorously abused by some of the California papers because in some letters to the *New York Herald*, two years ago [1887] I warned people over here that the boom could not last, and that the inevitable reaction would bring embarrassment and loss to a great many persons. But this is now seen to be true.

When he was asked if he believed that California's prosperity would be seriously retarded by the bursting boom, he answered:

Not much. California has such various and extraordinary natural wealth that all parts will quickly recover from the depression at the same time. I believe that for some time to come new land enterprises based on cheap purchases will be more prosperous than older ones based on boom prices. It struck me that prices in some localities which felt the boom are still

too high to attract judicious buyers. But also I saw much rich land offered at fair prices; and in my belief Eastern men who know what they want can now advantageously come out and look around in the southern part of the State and may find cheap land, and if they take time even very good bargains.²⁵

Generally he was proved correct by the improving economic conditions and increasing population figures of the nineties.

Coronado Island, first opened to development as the boom collapsed, continued to progress. Nordhoff had enough faith in that San Diego resort area to move there and build one of the most elegant homes in the new community. To further his interest in Baja California lands just then being discovered by investors, he wrote *Peninsular California* (1888). Until the new century began, he remained an active advocate of far western progress. Then, early in 1901, Nordhoff's health failed due to diabetes. In March he went to San Francisco, but treatment in a sanitarium was in vain. He died there on July 14, 1901.²⁶

The next two generations of Nordhoffs continued his traditions in western literature, travel and residence. Charles' son, Walter, wrote *Journey of the Flame*, a novel about Baja California; and Walter's son, Charles Bernard Nordhoff, followed the family fascination with the sea. He coauthored with James Norman Hall the best-selling novel *Mutiny on the Bounty* (1932).

Library indexes, aging volumes (some still read as avidly as in Victorian days, and a few of them in new editions) are literary mementoes of this unusual man. Yet, his best monuments are the southern California communities whose birth or rebirth he 'midhusbanded' through books and pamphlets. The Ojai Valley of today exhibits many of the physical charms of the southern California he viewed and loved over a century ago, and it persistently retains much of the human spirit of enthusiasm and adventure he sensed in an earlier decade called the Seventies.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL FOOTNOTES

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2. For example Daniel Freeman, a Canadian, who came to Los Angeles in 1873 was attracted by Nordhoff's book. See Harris

- Newmark, *Sixty years in Southern California, 1853-1913* (New York, The Knickerbocker Press, 1916) 445.
3. Franklin Walker, *A literary history of Southern California* (Berkeley and Los Angeles, University of California Press, 1950) 113.
 4. All published in London by the Southern Pacific Railroad; editions of Nordhoff's later-revised guidebook appeared in French, German and Spanish-language translations in 1883. These were short works of 30-32 pages, according to the editions.
 5. Charles Nordhoff, *Man-of-War: a boy's experience in the United States Navy during a voyage around the world* (Cincinnati, Moore, Wiltach, Keys and Company, 1856) 15.
 6. See Percy W. Bidwell, "Charles Nordhoff," *Dictionary of American biography* (New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1934) XIII, 548.
 7. *San Francisco Chronicle*, December 31, 1893, p. 12.
 8. Bidwell, *op. cit.*, 548.
 9. *Ibid.*
 10. Charles F. Lummis, "In western letters," *Land of sunshine* (Los Angeles) XV, October, 1901, p. 234.
 11. *Ibid.*
 12. Charles Nordhoff, *California: for health, pleasure, and residence* (New York, Harper and Brothers, 1873), ii.
 13. *Ibid.*, 19.
 14. *Ibid.*, 110-114.
 15. *Ibid.*, 114.
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 20. Lawrence Clark Powell, *California classics: the creative literature of the Golden State* (Los Angeles, Ward Ritchie Press, 1971) 18.
 21. Lummis, *op. cit.*, 237. Ella Sterling Cummins called Nordhoff "the first writer after J. Ross Browne to proclaim the advantages of California". Ella Sterling Cummings, *The story of the files: a review of Californian writers and literature* (San Francisco, privately published, 1893) 69.
 22. *San Francisco Call*, August 3, 1887, p. 8.
 23. *Los Angeles Times*, July 16, 1901, p. 8.
 24. *San Francisco Call*, August 3, 1887, p. 8.
 25. "The southern boom: a chat with Charles Nordhoff on California prospects", *San Francisco Examiner*, October 7, 1889, p. 3.
 26. *San Diego Union*, July 15, 1901, p. 5; and *San Francisco Morning examiner*, July 15, 1901, p. 6. Rather similar obituaries are in *San Francisco Chronicle*, July 15, 1901, p. 2; and *New York Herald*, July 15, 1901, p. 4.

Signal : OJAI ITEMS

The Ojai

On the 4th of July, bright and early with our friend, A. D. Barnard, we started for the renowned Ojai country. Although the country is familiar to most of our readers, they must bear with us for the sake of our eastern subscribers while we particularize. The Ojai Rancho is up the east branch of the San Buenaventura River, and includes in its boundaries about 20 thousand acres which were bought by Thos. A. Scott and others for the oil springs on it; and large sums of money were expended to develop and work them; but the work, which has temporarily been suspended, will doubtless be begun when we have sail communication with San Francisco. The land when purchased was supposed to have no value aside from its oil wells. Time, however, has proved that the agricultural resources of the land are vastly more valuable than any other. The best of the land has rapidly risen in value from two to twenty dollars per acre. The road to the Ojai leads up the San Buenaventura River which is a beautiful stream, almost clear, with rock and sand bottom and full of trout and small fish. The river bottom is covered with huge sycamore, walnut and live and white oak trees, many of which are covered with wild grape vines which add much to their beauty. There are thousands of cords of wood up the river on but a few acres, the hill sides being densely covered with large oaks. When we have railroad communication, we will furnish wood for the people of Los Angeles, Anaheim and the treeless plains of San Diego to bake the bread which we can now furnish them.

But we digress. After a pleasant drive around the magnificent wheat fields of Mr. Suhren, we pulled up at the ranch of L. D. Robert who is an enthusiastic admirer of the Ojai. Mr. Roberts came from Bloomington, Ill. where he had contracted bronchitis in its worst form. His physicians gave his case up as a hopeless one. He tried a change of climate; eleven months since he reached the Ojai unable to speak above a whisper, now he can yell so as to be heard

a mile if necessary and brings down the scale at 168 though he only weighed 124 pounds when he came. His was a very bad case; what the warm pure air has done for him, it will do for others in like condition. The air of the Ojai is less humid, much less so, than on the coast and is warmer. From Mr. R.'s we drove rapidly, taking notes as we went down the level road to the upper end of the lower Ojai, passing the 400-acre tract of Robt. Ayers which is the prettiest piece of land man over laid eyes upon (it is slightly rolling, almost level, covered with large live oaks which with their low spreading branches add much to the beauty of the scenery) also passing a similar tract belonging to A. D. Barnard and one to Mr. Putnam who is building a good sized frame house. Mr. McKee is on the right hand side as we go up and will soon be 'at home' to friends and strangers. Mr. Pirie, a newcomer from New York also near the road, will soon be in his new house on his 1200-acre tract. C. W. Leach, an old resident of Santa Barbara, is also trying the Ojai air for his health.

To reach the upper Ojai we climbed a winding road up the hill side. There we found equally as good wheat as in the lower Ojai, got a drink of cool well water at Mr. Gray's. The upper is much like the lower Ojai, having the advantage of running water. The lower Ojai proper is bounded on the north by a high range of mountains which entirely cuts off cold winds, on the south partly a lower range of hills which are covered with oak trees and chaparral and the east is mostly walled in by a high range. Owing to its peculiar surroundings and good cool water and shade and mild dry atmosphere it is adapted, perhaps, better to persons suffering with bronchial or pulmonary affections than any place on the Pacific coast. Many persons come here and to Santa Barbara with consumption. It is well for such persons to come from the Atlantic states to our coast, but we think they should get back into the interior as soon as possible. We know of no such place as the Ojai, and we firmly believe it is destined to be the great sanitarium of the Pacific coast. We shall do our part to hasten the day when those suffering from lung disease, east and along the coast, shall know of the advantages of the Ojai.

July 12, 1873

Ojai Items

L. D. Roberts has laid off a town on his ranch on the Ojai. The location is a beautiful one. The lots are 150x160 feet, five acres in a block. The name of this embryo city is Ojai.
July 26, 1873

We understand that large tracts of land in the Ojai will be cut into smaller ones this fall and put into the market at reasonable prices. Then there will be land enough for all who may desire to come.
August 30, 1873

Charles Nordhoff

Charles Nordhoff and family are in Santa Barbara. Mr. N. is a gentleman whom the people of southern California should delight to honor for he has done more than any other man to picture without exaggeration, the beauties of our glorious country to the people throughout the United States and Europe. His book on California is a well written one, and the statements made therein are candid and well considered, and the reader is impressed as he reads them that they are written by a man who only desires to state the facts just as he finds them. His book has had thousands of readers who learned first from it where and what southern California was.

We hope Mr. Nordhoff may live long in our lovely country, and that soon he may make our little city a visit. He will find quite a different place from that which he saw in 1870. We hope, too, that he will add to his interesting book a description of the loveliest valleys in southern California, those of Ventura County.
October 4, 1873

Ojai Items

An artesian well will be sunk early in the spring.

Mr. R. G. Surdam has bought 1,300 acres more land east of Mr. Suhren's.

A petition will soon be circulated to have a post office established here.

A Los Angeles man is in the white oak flat looking at land with the view of erecting a commodious hotel for the accommodation of invalids.
January 3, 1874

The Ojai Hotel

For many successive weeks we have advocated the Ojai

Valley as a health resort. So famous has it become through our efforts that many have been led to invest there, among them one of our most enterprising moneyed men, Mr. R. G. Surdam. Mr. S., appreciating the advantage of immediate and generous action, as soon as he had his deed for his large tracts of land advertised that he would donate to any man who would build a good hotel twenty acres of land. Mr. N. W. Blumberg accepted his offer on condition that the people of this place and the Ojai would contribute to the enterprise. They have done so, Mr. Surdam himself agreeing to give \$100 and Chaffee & McKeeby the same amount. Our lumber merchants and the people in the Ojai Valley also contributed generously, and now the hotel enterprise is an accomplished fact. Mr. Blumberg has his lumber on the ground, and men enough to put it up and have it ready for occupancy in four months. Mr. B. understands the hotel business, and will do all he agrees to. He will doubtless advertise liberally; and if so, during the entire season from the very start he will have all the invalids and guests that he can accommodate. The enterprise is a very important one to the Ojai, and we shall expect to herald other substantial improvements during the season. No time should be lost by the Ojai people in making their little valley as attractive as possible. It can be made a most delightful resort, and at less expense, too, than any other locality we have ever seen.

January 17, 1874

Ojai Items

Mr. Blumberg has some of his material on the ground for the new hotel.

The name of Mr. Surdam's town will be Topa Topa, the old Indian name of the valley.

A petition containing all the names of the voters has been forwarded to Washington praying for the establishment of a post office at the new town. The mail service will be tri-weekly.

January 17, 1874

The name of Mr. Surdam's town has been changed to Nordhoff. All the citizens have signed the post office petition. Mr. L. R. Herbert will probably be the P. M.

A store will be opened on the Ojai soon; also a livery

"OJAI"

IS THE NAME OF A NEW TOWN

LAI D OFF ON THIS RANCHO.

I AM NOW PREPARED TO sell lots or blocks to such as desire them in the new town of the Ojai recently laid off by me.

TERMS REASONABLE.

The lots are 105x160—blocks contain five acres each.

L. D. ROBERTS.

TRI-WEEKLY STAGE LINE

TO

Nordhoff.

THE UNDERSIGNED HAS put on a line of tri-weekly stages to run between Nordhoff and San Buenaventura, leaving Nordhoff every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 8 a. m., and returning leaves San Buenaventura at 2 p. m. Orders left at the Santa Clara or Ayers hotel will receive prompt attention. The hack will call at private residences when desired.

R. O. VAN CURKIN,
Proprietor.

iv-4tf

Blocks 330 feet, lots 150 feet, streets 50 ft.

R. G. Surdam, the founder of the town of NORDHOFF, situate in the beautiful Ojai Valley, the great Sanitarium and health resort of California, is now prepared to sell lots and blocks to those who desire homes in that beautiful mountain valley. The HOME for invalids and tourists is now completed and kept by an experienced gentleman of culture and taste, Mr. A. W. Blumberg, where everything is cosy and home-like. Each of his guests will be made as comfortable as possible. Cottages will be erected on short notice and leased to those who desire them.

The town of NORDHOFF is situated in a live and white-oak grove, where there is the best of water, grand scenery, good game and fine drives—and is only five miles from the hot springs, to which parties who wish baths will be taken when desired.

The road to the Ojai Valley, fifteen miles from San Buenaventura, is an easy grade up the San Antonio creek, a beautiful stream of crystal pure water, fringed on either side with sycamores, from the lofty branches of which the wild grape-vine droops into natural bowers.

No one should fail to take a drive on this delightful road who visits the lower coast. Those in pursuit of game and fun or health can not do better than to spend a few months in the bracing mountain air of the celebrated health-restoring valley of the Ojai.

R. G. SURDAM, OFFICE AT SANTA CLARA HOUSE.

Will buy and sell real estate and give information free of charge to new-comers. Has large tracts of his own land for sale, including

1,700 Acres on the Ojai,

suitable for a colony, which is well watered and timbered, or will sell one-half interest in the above, including the town of NORDHOFF, to any parties wishing to engage in the real estate business. This tract embraces 1,000 acres of good wheat land, 300 acres of which is in wheat.

stable with a good line of easy carriages to convey invalids to the 'home' and the springs.

The surveying party are on the Ojai road, and will soon have the new road laid out when the supervisors say it shall be put in first-class order.

Several parties have engaged lots from Mr. Surdam as soon as he has them laid off. January 24, 1874

Ed T. Hare has finished the survey of the new town, Nordhoff, and has platted the same and placed the plat on file in the recorder's office. The plat is a creditable place of workmanship. Ed evidently understands his business.

Mr. Conn, recently from Illinois, who came here for his health, will return in the fall much improved. He has gained 18 pounds since he came here.

The survey of the new road from The Mission here has been completed; and the supervisors say the road will soon be put in first class condition. February 7, 1874

The postoffice at Nordhoff is established, as we learn from Washington dispatches. This will be of great advantage to the citizens, tourists and invalids of that place. A tri-weekly mail route will probably be established to supply it from this place. March 21, 1874

The Grand Opening

The ball at Nordhoff given on Monday evening last in honor of the opening of the new hotel by Mr. A. W. Blumberg was a most brilliant affair. There was a large number of ladies and gentlemen present from every portion of the county, the music was excellent and the supper which was prepared and served under the supervision of Mrs. Blumberg, the landlady, could not have been surpassed and was hugely enjoyed by the company who after several hours' dancing had an appetite to do full justice to it. The Ojai people generally turned out and together with those who went from this place and Santa Paula made the largest company which has ever been in attendance at any ball in the county. The success of the affair is largely due to the enthusiasm and enterprise of the founder of the village, Mr. R. G. Surdam. We append a list of the names of those registered at the hotel on the evening of the reception:



Blumberg's
Hotel

Mrs. Jamas Daly, Mrs. Dr. Bard, Mrs. John Larmer, Mrs. Thomas Clark, Mrs. W. E. Shepherd, Mrs. Ann Ayers, and Mrs. J. J. Sheridan; Misses Josephine Ayers, Celia Perkins, Agnes Ayers, Julia Sheridan, Kate Perkins, Anna Sheridan, Tranquilina Lorenzana, Francesca Menchaca, Elfrida Tico, Celia Dennison, Adelaide Dominguez, Emma Leach, Miss Sanderson, Carrie Hicks, Georgie Jones, Mary Gerberding, Ellen Lavelle; Mrs. Ed Jones, Miss Nellie Ferguson, Mrs. Wm. Pirie; Charlie McKeeby, S. D. Wright, Willis Leach, W. H. Granger, Mr. Charlebois, Wm. Johnson, G. H. Suhren, L. R. Herbert, Robert Ayers, S. B. Briggs, Ed Jones, Wm. Pirie, B. T. Williams, J. Logan Kennedy, L. F. Eastin, George S. Gilbert, John Mears, Thomas Clark, James Daly, John Larmer, W. E. Shepherd, R. C. Powell, T. R. Bard, M. A. Bates, A. W. Browne, A. Gerberding, R. G. Surdam, T. Taylor, Ed Sheridan, M. H. Marks, C. C. Perkins, Joe Ayers, Ira Hall, Arthur Hall, Ed Albertson, Charles Barnett, G. B. Simpson, Louis Arnaz, Ed T. Hare, John Ayers (Ojai) John Ayers (Ventura) Ed Lucas, Ed Ayers, J. J. Sheridan. April 11, 1874

Ojai Items

Mr. McKee is pushing his new house rapidly to completion.

Mr. Surdam has put prices on his lots in Nordhoff, and will sell to any parties designing to improve at low rates.

Mr. Blumberg has already engaged most of his rooms. He intends, however, to build an addition to his hotel immediately. April 25, 1874

Mr. Van Curen has established a tri-weekly stage line between this place and Nordhoff for the accommodation of tourists. May 16, 1874

Herbert is keeping as good a stock of goods as can be found anywhere, and will sell at reasonable rates.

Several Boston men have been looking through the valley for several days. It is thought they will purchase 1,500 acres near Nordhoff.

Mr. Winiger and wife of Santa Barbara were in the valley during the week. Mr. W. has returned to Santa Barbara with a view of making arrangements to come with other parties and camp out for a month or so in the white oak flat.

The Ojai people turned out some weeks ago *en masse* and put the Creek Road to town in a much better condition. All the stones were removed, and it is now really a pleasure to drive over it. Tourists should go up the Creek Road and come back the grade.

The work on McKee's artesian well goes on. At last accounts they were down 50 feet, with water within 8 feet of the top. All are sanguine that a flowing well will be obtained. It is to be hoped that the work will not cease until a thorough test is made; and the experiment should be made a neighborhood affair. If he should fail after making a thorough trial, the expense would be greater than one man should stand in such a matter. Let the neighbors, after he has gone 70 or 80 feet and fails to reach flowing water, make up a sufficient sum to go down at least 200 feet. If a flowing well is reached then, Mr. McKee could pay back the contributions. Since the above was written, we learn that Mr. M. has a flowing well at 51 feet. June 6, 1874

Mr. Robt. Ayers will sink an artesian well during the season.

Mr. Wiggin will build on his land adjoining Nordhoff in a short time.

Mr. Montgomery's house is nearly completed; when done, it will be one of the prettiest houses in the valley.

Mr. McKee's artesian well continues to flow about as when first completed. August 22, 1874

The Ojai Climate

Almost every day we hear or see some evidence of the fact that the beautiful Ojai Valley is becoming known abroad, and that its merits as a health resort for pulmonary invalids are beginning to be thoroughly appreciated. A few days since the great traveler and author, J. Ross Browne, said when asked what he thought of the Ojai, "Well, I have not language at my command to convey to you what I think of that beautiful place". No man in the country wields a more graceful pen or uses language with more fluency, and hence the expression is more than complimentary. All those who have spent time there are, without exception, delighted with the climate and have been benefited by remaining a few weeks. Our friend Johnson of the *Santa Barbara Press*, who has perhaps traveled over California as much as any other man in the state, no sooner saw the valley than he began to feel around for change with which to make an investment there. He did so, and has contracted for more land. T. R.



Live Oak

California

Bard, one of our wealthiest citizens, who came here several years ago as the manager of the interests of Col. Thos. A. Scott and others could find no pleasanter place for a home than in the Ojai Rancho. Mrs. McKee, a former resident of Santa Barbara and a pulmonary invalid, finding the coast winds of that place too rough for her found her way to a home there where she now is entirely restored to health. Mrs. Montgomery who has traveled far and near, in Cuba and South America and in the States, for her health seeks the Ojai and is now there enjoying good health. Col. Wiggin who has vainly searched from New Orleans to New York City for a resting place just suited to him, hearing of the Ojai, concluded it was the place and came out. Now he and his wife are happy and in their tent under a live oak tree waiting for his house to be built. C. P. Wiseman and family of New York City also find the Ojai all they pictured it in their imagination, and fully up to the description of it. L. D. Roberts, formerly of Bloomington, Illinois, who to save his life on account of bronchitis left his old home, now praises the Ojai in language loud enough to be heard a mile away. Mr. C. E. Soules formerly an invalid of Healdsburg,

California, who owns and works upon one of the finest ranches in the valley, finds the Ojai air much more congenial. There are many others whom we might name, who by a residence there have recovered or much improved in health. Among them Thos. J. Newby formerly associate editor of the *Signal* and his sister, Mrs. J. H. Bradley, the widow of the former editor of this paper.

We forbear at this time further comment. Any of the parties may be addressed, and will cheerfully corroborate all we have said, and will no doubt in the fullness of their gratitude say much more for the valley than we do.

September 5, 1874

More Testimony

In our article last week in which we gave the names of several parties who had been benefited by a residence in the Ojai Valley, we omitted persons who can cheerfully testify regarding the beneficial effects of the climate of that delightful valley. Several citizens of this place who, finding the coast winds and occasional fogs brought back symptoms of asthma, catarrh, bronchitis and lung disease contracted elsewhere, have hastened to the dry mountains air of the Ojai, invariably with good results. Among those are Mrs. W. D. Hobson, Mrs. P. V. McCarty, Mrs. A. D. Fallett and Mrs. Brice Grimes. A number prefer the upper Ojai to the lower valley, or the Matilija. Among those we may name is Joseph Hobart who owns one of the finest ranches in the county, a New England man who had the asthma for years before finding a home in the Ojai. Mr. J. M. Charles who also lives in the upper valley, an old resident of Warsaw, Illinois and also of Sonoma County, would be glad to inform any of his old friends of either place of the healthfulness and charming advantages of his locality. To those in the lower valley who have experienced in themselves or some member of their families great benefit we should have added the names of J. N. Jones and his wife, formerly of El Paso, Illinois. Mrs. J. has entirely recovered from the asthma from which she had, previous to her residence there, suffered for years. Any of the above named parties will no doubt take pleasure in telling their old friends of the cura-

tive properties of the Ojai climate for pulmonary invalids.

September 12, 1874

Ojai Items

The lumber is being hauled for Col. Wiggin's new house near Nordhoff.

Mr. T. B. Steepleton's house is about completed.

Mr. Gilbert's new house is under way, and will soon be completed.

September 12, 1874

Mr. Simms contemplates building soon.

Col. Wiggin's new house is nearly completed.

Mr. McKee's new house is receiving the finishing touches.

Mr. McLean has bought a small tract of land of McKee.

Mr. Gilbert has built a neat cottage on his lot in Nordhoff.

Mr. Templeton has bought 43 acres of McKee, for which he paid \$28 per acre. He will build immediately.

Mr. Montgomery's new house is an ornament to the valley, and will soon be entirely completed. It has a most beautiful location near the Live Oak Avenue.

Mr. Tobey, an invalid from Santa Barbara, is stopping on the Ojai, the guest of Mr. McKee. He is, of course, delighted with the valley and is improving rapidly.

A new road parallel with Ojai Avenue will shortly be laid out through the valley, and also one north and south connecting the two.

September 26, 1874

Nordhoff

This town was laid off by its founder last year, and is located in the Ojai Valley, 15 miles from San Buenaventura. The present proprietor, Col. C. P. Wiggin, proposes to offer every inducement for parties to locate there who propose to build good houses. It is confidently expected that this town will become the favorite resort of southern California for invalids. Its location is delightful, being in the midst of a heavy live and white oak grove, and is so thoroughly sheltered that no high winds ever find their way there. The town plot covers 50 acres, and is divided into blocks.

January 2, 1875

John Montgomery

By E. M. Sheridan

The following sketches of the first Ojai boom and other early day events were written by John Montgomery. Much has been said and written of R. G. Surdam, but nothing more truthfully descriptive of the man than this. John Montgomery was himself a notable character, a highly educated Englishman who in early days found his way to Mexico. His was a life of travel, study, enterprise and adventure. He married into an illustrious Spanish family in Monterrey, Mexico and in the Maximilian period was helpful in readjustment of Mexican affairs, working in connection with the family heads of his wife's relatives who were leaders in the work. For the benefit of his wife's health Mr. Montgomery removed to the Ojai Valley in 1874 and located on a farm of 75 acres he had purchased there near the village. The family resided in the Ojai for many years. Mr. Montgomery was a writer of merit and produced much of a poetic and literary character. His articles follow:

The First Ojai Boom

Is there a boom bacillus? Most likely there is, how otherwise can we account for the resemblance of the disease to the measles with its incipency, its outburst and decline? It is as contagious as the smallpox, as infectious as the cholera. Once let the boom microbe enter the system and the victim is as diseased as a hospital or asylum patient, his brain is muddled, his judgment perverted and his moral nature undermined; he peoples trackless deserts with mighty hosts, builds castles in the air and sees gold nuggets in common boulders; then finally wakes up, too often, alas, to a long and painful convalescence and the self interrogation of 'where was I at?'

One of these epidemics struck southern California in the year 1873, the centers of infection being San Diego and Santa Barbara for Tom Scott has promised a railroad to the former and Charles Nordhoff had published in *Harper's* a series of articles on Santa Barbara which caused a stream of one-lunged pilgrims to flow into that Mecca. Los Angeles and San Buenaventura were not thought of, but the hitherto secluded Ojai Valley posed as a boom-struck celebrity and was introduced into turbulent companionship by a very singular personage. R. G. Surdam had fallen in love



Royce G. Surdam

at first sight with this rustic beauty, and never was an ardent lover more entranced than he over his new-found enamorata. The expressive term 'rattled' may be applied to his state of mind in relation to his discovery. He purchased

1,500 acres from T. R. Bard, the tract extending from the creek at Nordhoff west to the present Meiners property. From this tract he selected a town site, named it Nordhoff and had A. W. Blumberg start a hotel, a free transfer of twenty acres being an inducement. In the spring of 1874 this solitary building was completed; and on a windy night in April a select but limited circle inaugurated the grand opening to the strains of a Ventura band, with choice selections from the repertoire of a coyote troop in the woods outside.

Surdam was so enthusiastic over his new acquisition that he could think, talk or dream of nothing else. In place of a portrait of his charmer he had a gorgeous map of her lineaments, with all the embellishments his fancy could bestow, namely: a grand public square with fountain and diverging avenues; a town hall; academy; location for a chapel; and vast possibilities. The writer will never forget his fruitless search for these attractions on his first visit to Nordhoff, and the bewildering confusion of mind resulting from their absence.

Surdam had his headquarters at the Santa Clara Hotel in Ventura; and there the unwary stranger, whether Jew or Gentile, was entrapped and like the youth in the *Ancient mariner* was held spellbound to hear the story of the beauty and virtue of the new acquisition. A cure for all the ills that afflict humanity, from relapsing fever to impecuniosity, was guaranteed to the fortunate guest or investor in the charmed groves of Nordhoff.

Don Quixote sallied forth on the highway to challenge to mortal combat any man refusing to own his Dulcinea the peeress of every lady in the land; Surdam had neither lance nor sword, but not the less emphatically did he insist that all should acknowledge the marvelous superiority of his mountain enchantress. Let no one suppose the man was insincere; he believed every word he said; he was an honest enthusiast with the boom fever in his marrow.

There are many now in the valley who would champion its cause with all the ardor of its first boomer. Is she not the ever youthful bride he imagined her to be with perennial orange wreath adorning her lovely crest? Has she

not the magic balm of health he promised to all her votaries? Are not the diverging avenues, the grand square, the academy and the public fountain among the probabilities, nay, the certainties of the near future? Whether he exaggerated or not, the fact remains that to Surdam the valley owes its first boom: his persistent praise called attention to its beauty, its excellence; and many who would have passed to other points in search of health or homes were induced to cast anchor in the romantic haven so warmly recommended.

So successful, indeed, were Surdam's efforts that lands east of the town advanced in a few months two hundred percent, jumping from ten to thirty dollars an acre. Additional accommodations were soon necessary to harbor the throng of home and health seekers who came into the valley, so that McKee's canvas tent was transformed into an attractive building, under the appropriate title of Oak Glen Cottage.

While Surdam insured success to the valley, he himself in his personal speculation failed to meet the success he anticipated and that his energy deserved. People did not want narrow town lots when broad acres were to be had so cheap. Then he refused to subdivide his outside lands and held them at a high figure, and thus others profited by his efforts while he himself reaped little or no benefit. His expenses were heavy; livery teams, surveying and advertising were sapping his means; and the purchase money had to be forthcoming. He held on so long as he was able; but there came a day when, with a heavy heart, he parted with his idol. In December 1874 the writer acquired his outside tract of 1,300 acres; and shortly after Colonel Wiggins purchased the townsite, also the Blumberg Hotel, improving the same by adding the west wing.

For nearly 12 years the boom virus lay dormant in Surdam's system to break out afresh in the excitement of 1887 when he undertook to float the Bardsdale property. On this occasion he displayed some of his old spirit, but it never reached the acme of his first craze.

Poor Surdam, prince of boomers, to think that all should end in an overdose of morphine and a coroner's inquest!

The promised railroad did not materialize in San Diego, but fine buildings and substantial improvements did; and

Santa Barbara owes the Arlington, the Clock Building, Odd Fellows' Hall, etc. to the boom of 1873. It died hardest in Santa Barbara, but in 1876 the fever was over, and the languid patient had scarcely strength left to raise a small mortgage.

The Ojai Valley, on the contrary, held its own. Whatever start it got in the excitement it retained. It had its wet years and its dry years; barley would lodge and wheat rust. Noisy croakers would wander off Jason-like in search of a golden fleece, lose their husky voices on the trip and return speechless as to the defects and drawbacks of the valley; but the majority of the substantial residents continued nestling in contentment and somnolent in the feeling that life's aims were attained.

Singular Characters

The tendency of humanity and civilization to march from east to west is remarkable. From China to India and thence to Persia, Egypt, Greece, Rome, Britain and lastly to America man and progress have ever faithfully followed the sun. Hordes have traversed desolate wastes, millions have braved the stormy deep, all impelled by a mysterious impulse urging their course westward. California completes the circle, there is no more West to attract the wanderer except China is to be invaded and history to repeat itself. The man who tramps west to California can tramp no farther and keep his feet dry; he must remain or go back or revel in the foamy surge. It is no wonder then that California is noted for the number of singular characters who loiter on its soil. Hope tells a flattering tale to many who are doomed to mourn, but mourning will not feed a hungry man nor growling replenish his impoverished purse; and he who comes here impelled by the western instinct is in most cases found *nolens volens* to remain and make the most of his situation. It is no unusual sight, therefore, to see an Eastern lawyer dumping baggage from an express wagon or a college graduate 'slinging hash' in a two-bits restaurant.

We had many such instances in the Ojai Valley. There was a case in early days of a German nobleman stranded on the Lichtenberg ranch, four miles from Norhoff, who in

desperation attempted to hatch eggs in the sun or by artificial heat long before incubators were invented.

To the same ranch in 1874 came two families who appeared as much out of place there as the German baron, and so were objects of curiosity and criticism to the sparse country population. They were fresh from New York City, had pronounced city ways and seemed wholly ignorant of everything pertaining to country life. As these people fill a place in the history of the valley we will describe them: Col. Wiggins was a tall, slim man of 50 years with a diminutive wife of 20; his companion, Wiseman, was a stout hearty young man of thirty with a refined and delicate city wife and several children. He was the son of a rich druggist and had lived, it was said, with both hands up to the elbows in the old man's money bags. After living some time on the Lichtenberg ranch the two families separated, Wiggins going to Nordhoff while Wiseman squatted with his little family in the wild brush east of the present Bennett place. A more unsuitable spot for such people could not be found. Green they were of the most pronounced emerald hue; there was enough verdancy in the family to crop the whole squat with cow feed; and they had a hard time in their little clearing surrounded by dense brush, the home of wild animals and rattlesnakes and a bear trap sunk in the earth not far from their shanty. And there Wiseman sweated and blustered, bungled and blistered, hauling water from a distance, running in debt and waiting for the paternal money drafts that never came; till one day his pistol went off accidentally when his wagon turned over into a barranca and poor Wiseman's squat was once more open to homestead entry. He was the pioneer of that lower section, now covered with orange groves, and for this he finds a place in our sketch.

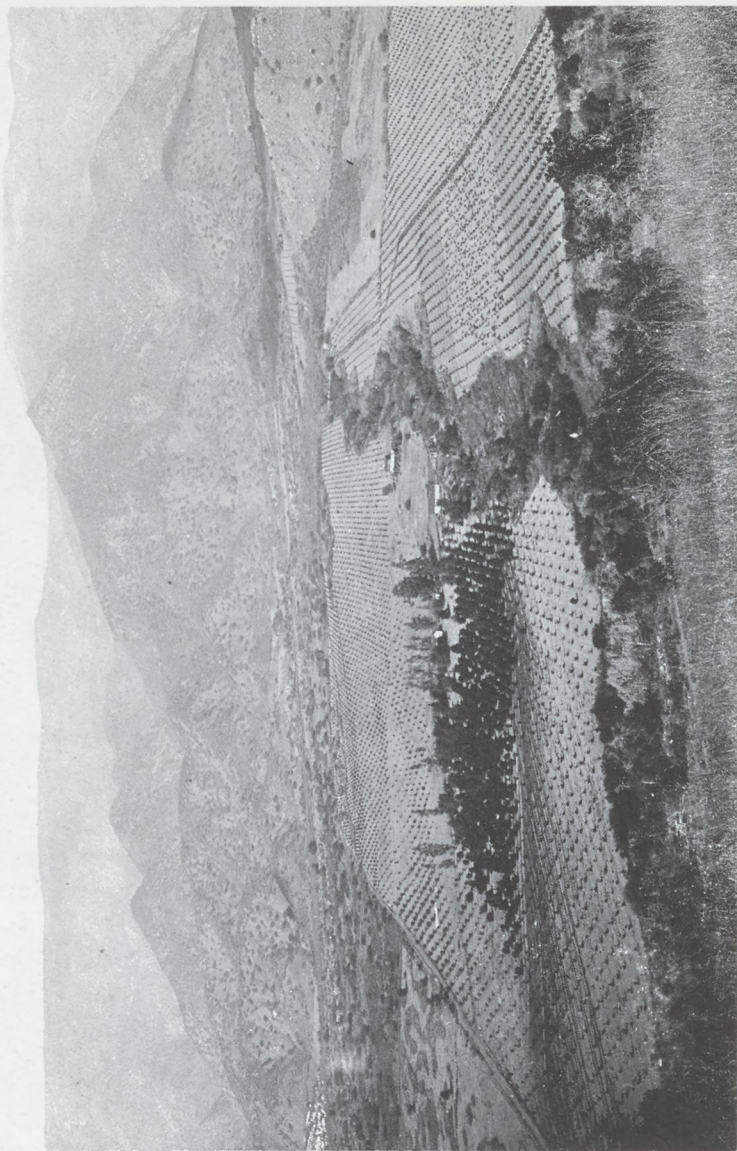
Col. Wiggins had in the meantime settled in Nordhoff and built the little house next east of the present Gries residence; and later on he purchased from Surdam the Nordhoff townsite, and from Blumberg the hotel. He passed for a millionaire, and had for a partner a member of the Louisiana Legislature, a cotton merchant in New Orleans. This partner's clerk forged bills and skipped, leaving his employer a ruined man; there was much sympathy in New Orleans

for the victim until the fugitive clerk surrendered in San Francisco and accused his employer of the crime, who had failed to remit him his share of the steal. This caused an immense sensation in New Orleans and resulted in a *causa celebre* and a vacancy in the legislature of the Pelican State.

Col. Wiggins was a man of much dignity of character as suited the man of military antecedents, and had his own ideas of running a hotel; he treated his guests as if they owed him an apology, and the offense could only be condoned by their silent submission to a heavy board bill; and he soon had the house all to himself and a mortgagee. In 1878 he joined his friend Wiseman in the shadowy land, and his disconsolate little widow shared her sorrows with a second husband in San Francisco. Thus passed away another of the valley pioneers, an eccentric but honest man.

Shortly after Wiggins' demise the writer, as owner of the hotel, received a visit from a strange lady who made the startling proposition to open an academy for young ladies in the building. She was a veteran in the business and highly recommended, and the establishment was to be first class. In a few weeks glowing circulars were scattered over California announcing the grand opening and detailing the various branches with strict rules of decorum, guaranteed moral safety and payment in advance. Four professors from San Francisco, loaded with accomplishments and burning to impart their knowledge, took charge of their departments, the doors were thrown open, and only the captivating presence of the sweet lady graduate was needed to make everybody happy; but, alas, she came not, and a financial stringency in the local money market brought matters to a crisis and howls of despair. The rupture of a solitary greenback and its distribution among the professors assauged their ruffled tempers, and under the leadership of the professor of oriental literature they departed to luxuriate on a deck passage home to San Francisco.

It has been said that Wiseman was the pioneer of the lower orange district in the valley; but S. S. Buckman had settled previously above on the present Thatcher place. This Buckman was a young Vermonter who came to the county in 1872, and through his good looks and qualities secured the



Orange
orchard
of
S.S.
Buckman

position of county school superintendent. Rambling in the wilds during vacation he discovered water in the cañon and thought it could be utilized on the open land below. This would cost a heavy outlay, but he had an immense capital in courage and pluck; and by hook or by crook he constructed his long and costly flume and attacked the dense brush forest, fighting for every foot of clearing and planting the first citrus trees in the valley and likely in the county. He taught school at Nordhoff, worked home Saturdays and planned Sundays. Never a word of encouragement did he get from his neighbors who lacked faith in his judgment; he was a crank in public estimation, this young Vermonter with a hobby. It was a strange sight to see him black as a chimney sweeper from burning brush, ragged and soiled from hard work, and then to glance at his framed diploma hanging on the bare wall, bearing in Latin from far off Monti Veridis a guaranty of his classical attainments. Such incongruity is seldom seen outside of California. His efforts were crowned with a splendid competence which he did not long enjoy for the deadly bullet of an assassin laid him low in the streets of San Francisco, another tragic ending to a valley pioneer.

The traveller from Ventura to the Ojai Valley would notice of an evening in old times a bright light reflected by the setting sun from the window of a little house nestling far off against the eastern mountain. The owner was an eccentric old bachelor named Ross, and the place was afterwards known as the Hund Ranch. This Ross was the type of a backwoodsman who held civilization in horror, and becoming restless under the pressure of population (his nearest neighbor lived three miles away) he offered his place and 200 stands of bees for \$600. The invalid son of the millionaire Woods of machinery fame fancied the bright spot and inquired the price. "One thousand dollars," answered Ross, intending to come down to the old figure. "The place is mine," said Woods, "here is your money." The idea that he might have got \$2,000 for the asking preyed on Ross' mind; the lost opportunity, the vanished 'might have been', so damped his spirits that he was reported to have died of a broken heart in Honolulu.

NEW

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Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Burnham
Mrs. E. C. Canet
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Mrs. Joyce Totten Fraser
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Half a Century of Service

California Mutual Insurance Co. Organized on April 4, 1898 as the Ventura County Mutual Fire Insurance Co. with E. P. Foster, president; Nathan Blanchard, vice-president and Charles Barnard, secretary. This old Ventura County business firm has faithfully followed the high standards set by its pioneer founders.

County Stationers, Inc., 532 E. Main, Ventura. Successor to John J. MacGregor. Since 1898 Ventura County's complete stationer and office furniture dealer.

Janss Investment Corporation. The company began its first real estate development activities in 1889. Operations were moved to the Conejo Valley in 1954 with offices in Thousand Oaks and Newbury Park.

Bank of A. Levy, 143 W. Fifth St., Oxnard. Founded in 1900 by the late Achille Levy, who came to Hueneme in 1875. Since its inception the Bank of A. Levy has been closely allied with the farm and ranch industries of Ventura County.

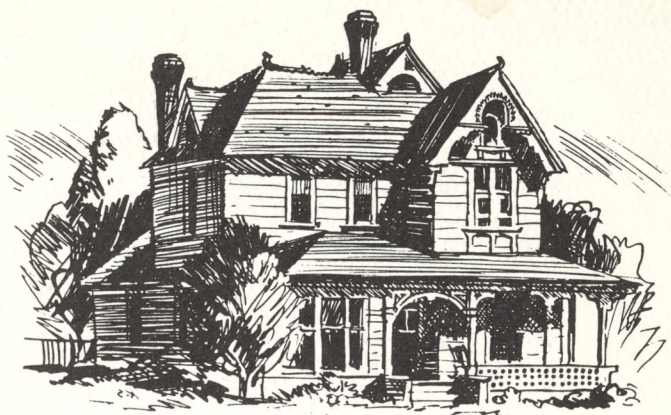
Joseph P. Reardon Funeral Chapel, 757 East Main Street, Ventura. Successor to the business established by the Reardon family in 1911 and conducted continually in Ventura since that date.

Safeco Title Insurance Company. Successor to Security Title Co., has been insuring title to California properties since 1920 and headquartered in Ventura since 1959.

Santa Paula Savings and Loan Association. Organized in April 1890 as the Santa Paula Building and Loan Association with J. R. Haugh, president; Caspar Taylor, vice-president and H. H. Youngken, secretary. This organization has served the interests of home owners and builders, as well as those of the investor.

Title Insurance and Trust Company. Successor to Ventura Abstract Company, founded in 1893 by Charles Barnard and incorporated in 1898 by him and four associates: Lloyd Selby, J. S. Collins, Robert C. Sudden and John H. Reppy. The office has been in continuous operation in Ventura County since that time.

Union Oil Company of California. Incorporated in Santa Paula in 1890, its operations have spread from Ventura County to become world-wide.



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COUNTY
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
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Vol. XX, No. 1

Fall 1974

Ventura County Historical Society

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The Ventura County Historical Society's headquarters is the Pioneer Museum, 77 North California Street, Ventura, California. All communications should be addressed to the Society at the Pioneer Museum. There are three classes of membership: active, \$10.00 per year including husband and wife; sustaining, \$25 per year; and life, \$100. Memberships include subscription to the *Quarterly*. Additional copies are available at \$1.50 each.

The *Quarterly* is published from the Society's headquarters at the Pioneer Museum. The Society assumes no responsibility for the statements or opinions of authors of various articles. Grant W. Heil is Editor and the Staff includes Mrs. Naydean L. Baker, Mrs. Florence Dawson, Duane L. Garber, Charles H. Heil, David W. Hill, Miss Linda C. Jordan, Junius H. Kellam, Charles F. Outland, Thomas A. Roe and Richard D. Willett.

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The Ventura County Historical Society *Quarterly*

Vol. XX, No. 1

Fall 1974

Grant W. Heil, Editor

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WILLIAM VANDEVER, VENTURA'S FIRST CONGRESSMAN

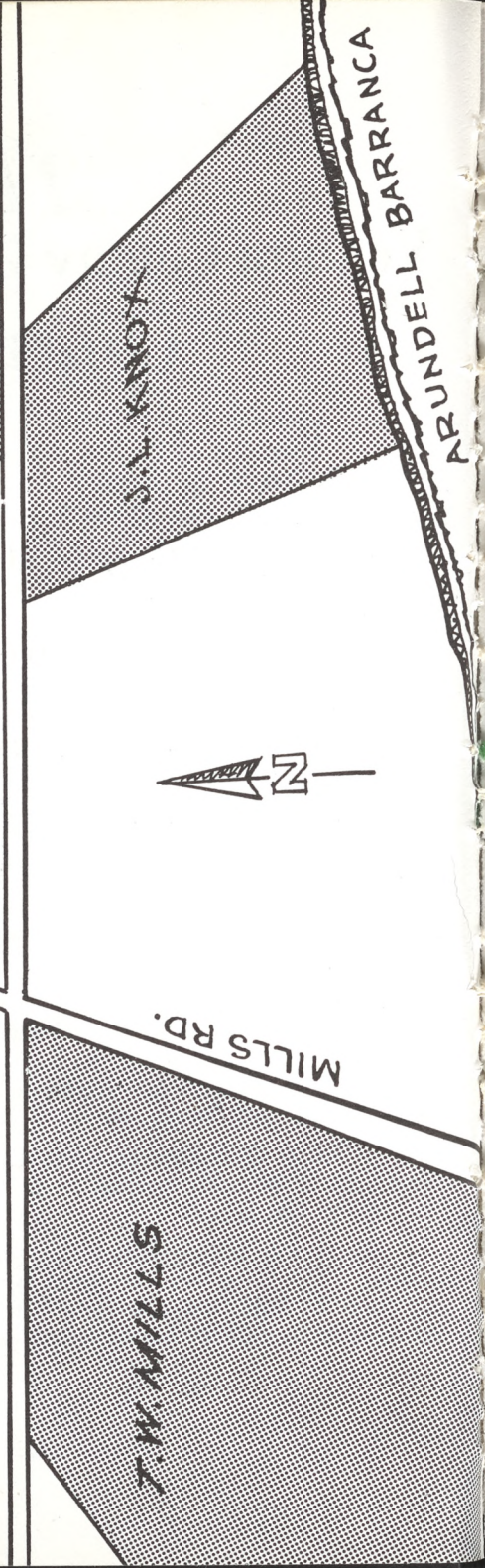
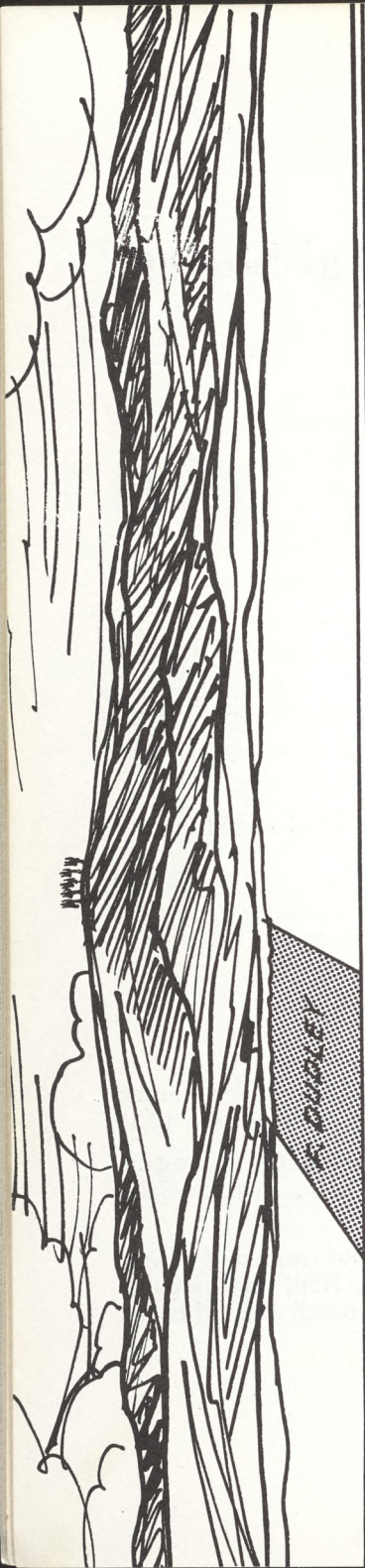
By John E. Baur

Notice

Mrs. Dudley and her daughter, Johanna, still live at the corner of Ashwood and Telegraph Road; her son, Leavitt, drew the plat.

Dr. Baur of California State University, Northridge has again furnished us with an account of a Venturan of stature in both California and the nation.

David W. Hill collated the photographs and copied the facsimiles. The map was outlined by Charles H. Heil, and lettered by John L. Smithson; the data was supplied through the office of Congressman Robert J. Lagomarsino.



THE DUDLEY HOUSE

By Miriam Knox Dudley

There are several ways in which I measure our home: historically, geneologically, statistically and sentimentally. We value the house because of the authentic atmosphere, from its uniqueness and the antiques.

Historically, I shall start with the background of our property. The land is in the Mound District but today the term East End is used by everyone except the old timers. The name 'Mound' is derived from the two low, flat-topped hills in Montalvo; the larger one is near the town and the other across the highway on the McGrath ranch. I like to imagine these mounds as being man-made by the aborigines; we believe the Indians must have inhabited our property since a skull and several artifacts such as mortars and pestles and an arrowhead have been unearthed.

My husband did not know from whom his father bought this property, but it was originally a 200-acre parcel of the Rancho Santa Paula y Saticoy.¹ According to the drawing made by Leavitt Dudley for Title Insurance and Trust, Father Dudley's land lay north of Telegraph Road and between Mills and Day Roads. About the same time (in the late 1860's) Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Mills from Dunbarton, New Hampshire bought about 300 acres in what was part of Rancho San Miguel. They built a large white salt-box house on the corner of Mills Road and Telegraph. Thomas W. Mills had come out to work in the gold fields, but settled in Ventura County instead.

When the land was purchased, it was virgin soil covered with beautiful flowers and mustard that they plowed under. Father Dudley and Mr. Mills experimented with barley, wheat, oats and the very soft-shell walnuts; but they found by tilth that lima beans proved indigenous to the cool, foggy climate. Frank Dudley owned land on the corner of Loma Vista and Mills Lane as it was called then. He also cooperated with his brother, Ben. Telegraph Road was called 'Republican Highway': only one Democrat lived on it and he was the county assessor.

I have given you a legal brief on our ranch history; now I shall tell you about our progenitors for geneology. I am a Knox-Leavitt issue; when a Leavitt relative in New England worked several years on the Knox family tree, I bought the book and read that the Leavitts and Dudleys had intermarried in the seventeenth century.² John Knox came to Saticoy because his brother, Jefferson L. Knox, had a small farm next to the old railroad station. Jeff was the father of Alice Farrand, married to George, an attorney. John's sister, Mary (Knox) Duval, ran the hotel across the street from the depot. Jeremiah Leavitt married Henrietta Baker in Brocton, Massachusetts during the War between the States. After his death she moved to Saticoy with her daughter, Adalaide, because her brother, Henry Baker, wished to come to California. He bought property at the northwest corner of Mills Road and Telegraph Road. Adalaide was married to John L. Knox in Massachusetts, and they came out the Oregon Trail to settle in Walla Walla, Washington. When they were burned out, losing all their records, she returned to Saticoy with four children to be near her mother. John Knox took up farming on the Los Posas.

Miriam Cordelia was the sixth child born to them. After her grandmother's death at the turn of century, John and Adalaide Knox bought property from Judge Ben Williams across Telegraph Road. When the families went to Los Angeles, it was up the Conejo grade to stay overnight at Calabasas on the way. 'Dooley' (Oscar Dudley) and Miriam spent as much time in each other's homes as their own. They were married July 6, 1915 and lived for one year in the old house. Since Father Dudley was bedridden, they now moved into the new house to care for him. Leavitt Oscar had already been born and Johanna (Overby) was three years later.

To begin with the Ventura predecessors of the Dudleys, I start with Caroline Louise Smith, a lovely soft-spoken lass. In 1876 Cary came out from Louisiana where her home had been pillaged by northern troops, to live with her uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Mills. Although she was a Rebel and a true Southerner and Benjamin Wells Dudley was a Union army hero and a typical Yank, they fell in love and were married and lived happily ever after. My husband and his three



Adalaide (Leavitt) Knox

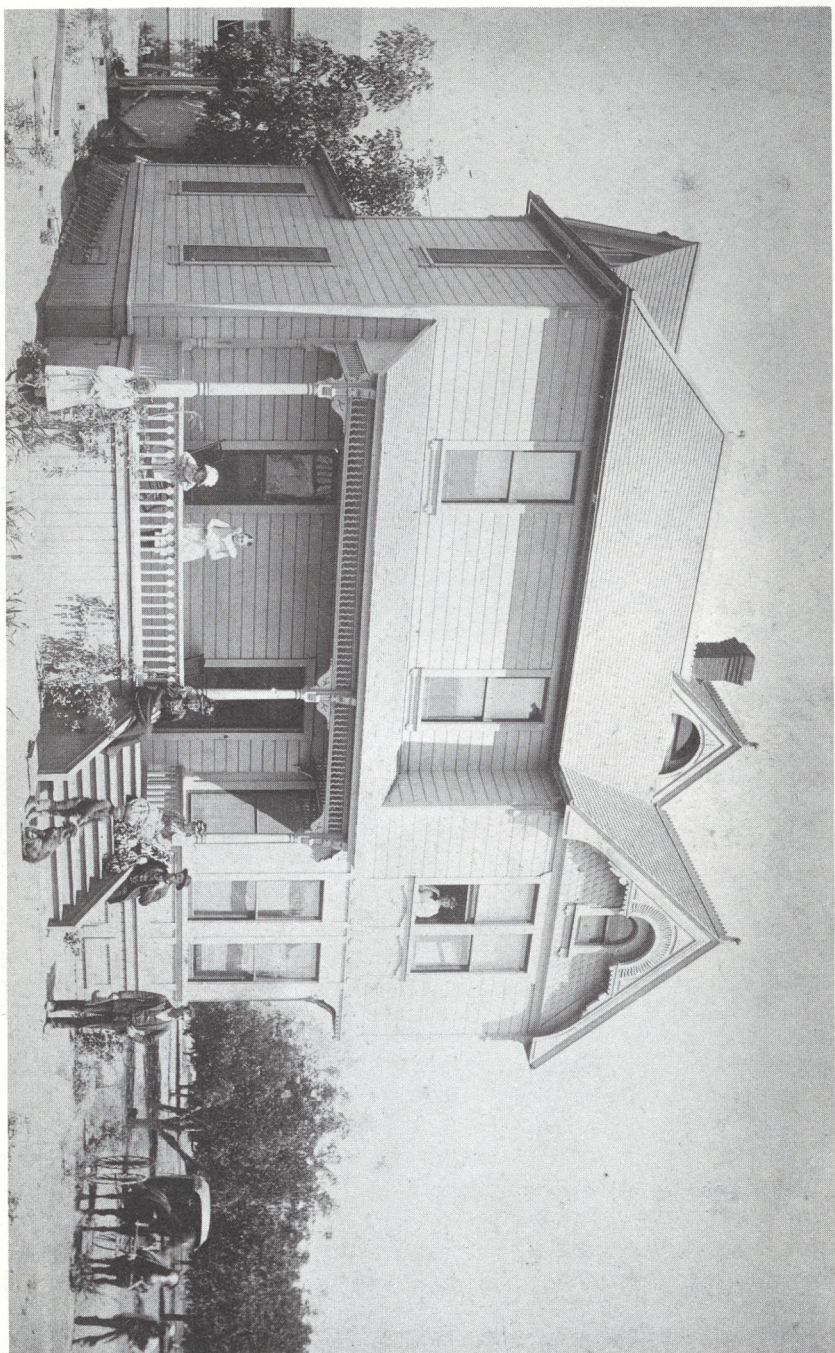
sisters were born in their original house which still stands behind this one, leaning up against a tree.

Mr. Dudley was a good citizen: member of the school board; a justice of the peace, he held court in the living room; and was selected Clerk of the Board of Supervisors. He was one of the leaders who worked for the advent of the telephone, electricity and a bridge across the Santa Clara River. Ben Dudley also helped establish the first Protestant



Benjamin Wells Dudley

church in Ventura (the Congregational Church) and was President of the Anti-Saloon League. In those days Messrs. Cerf and Lagomarsino were paying only \$64 a year for their saloon licenses; but through lobbying by the league the fee was upped to \$600, and Mr. Dudley was nicknamed the 'Daddy of High Licenses'.



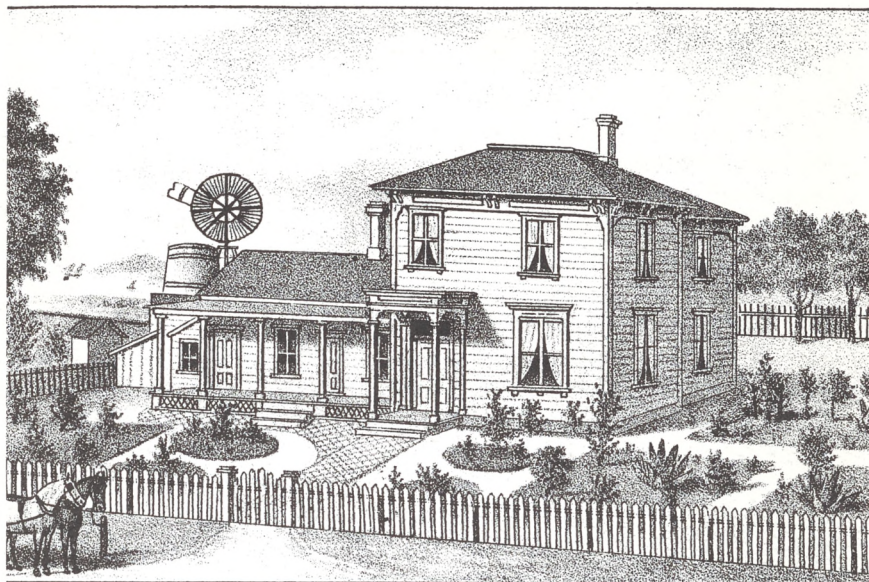
Ben Dudley house in the 1890's



Dudley housewarming in 1892

Now for a few statistics. Selwyn Shaw built this house in 1891. His houses were all built after the same general plan: high off the ground, hand-finished, decorated with gobs of gingerbread and gargoyles; and as a bonus for his cash clients, he threw in an elaborate hand-carved fireplace. Since the eaves were adorned by carvings of a star with a crescent moon, the style might be said to be pseudo-Turkish. The house has five bedrooms, two living rooms, a family room, halls and alcoves, and stairways to a floored attic and down to a cellar where Mother Dudley used to store her canned fruit and winter vegetables. The contract shows that the cost of all this was \$2,100. There was no bathroom, a tub on the kitchen floor provided for the Saturday night baths; but outdoors at the end of a boardwalk was a backhouse with a four-holed settee in it.

When Mr. and Mrs. Mills died, the bulk of their estate went to missionaries to the great disappointment of the heirs;



Residence of Mr. and Mrs. Mills

but the Dudleys inherited their furniture. It was placed in different rooms of their home. The table is a Duncan Phyfe, the work of an American cabinet maker born in Scotland but he prospered so rapidly in New York that he was the first craftsman to operate a factory with an assembly line. His work is marked with grace; he used the harp, lyre, acanthus leaves and claw feet as decorations; and employed a Buhl and Counter theme, that is a pattern divided, an inlay inserted, then the pattern repeated. The bevelled French mirror is three-eighths of an inch thick; their method was to blow the molten silicate into a frame on a table, roll it out with heavy rollers, smooth with sand and water, and finally polish with emery. The English walnut furniture was imported into New England during the seventeenth century: the three chairs and sofa belong to a set; the leather arm chairs, desk, marble top tables, low table, foot stools and even the little ink well are solid walnut.

Mrs. Mills also gave the Currier and Ives lithographs and the paperweights. Father Dudley added the pewter to the collection; the formula for this dark, old pewter being four

parts of tin to one part lead. His drinking flask and student lamp, fuelled by whale oil and magnified by bull's eye lens, were made from it as well. In addition to the English gold watch, he had a derringer mounted in a case. Mother Dudley's butter-making utensils were coopered (I had an ancestor who was a cooper) from *lignum-vitae*, the hardest wood known. Her amber beads and tortise shell comb are over 150 years old. The white Haviland china is our wedding set, and the jade was a gift from my brother. All these are things of historic import.

In conclusion, to appraise the house sentimentally, you must have sensed how much we love our home. It has stood through five generations of Dudleys: a grandmother, my husband's parents, Oscar and I and our children, and enough baby sitting of our grandchildren to call them occupants. I came to it as a bride. Oscar Dudley was born here 83 years before his death; it was his niche, and he would have felt unnatural anywhere else. Like the rugs I braided from the outgrown clothing of our children, I have adapted the words of a poem:

Treasure chests of color are my braided rugs of wool,
Where precious memories throng.
A daughter college bound in dubonnets and blues;
A son departing in the army's khaki hues . . .
Such woven strands are strong!

FOOTNOTES

1. J. M. Guinn. *Historical and biographical record of Southern California*, 572-573.
2. Emily Leavitt Noyes. *Leavitt (Descendants of Dorothy Dudley)*.

WILLIAM VANDEVER VENTURA'S FIRST CONGRESSMAN

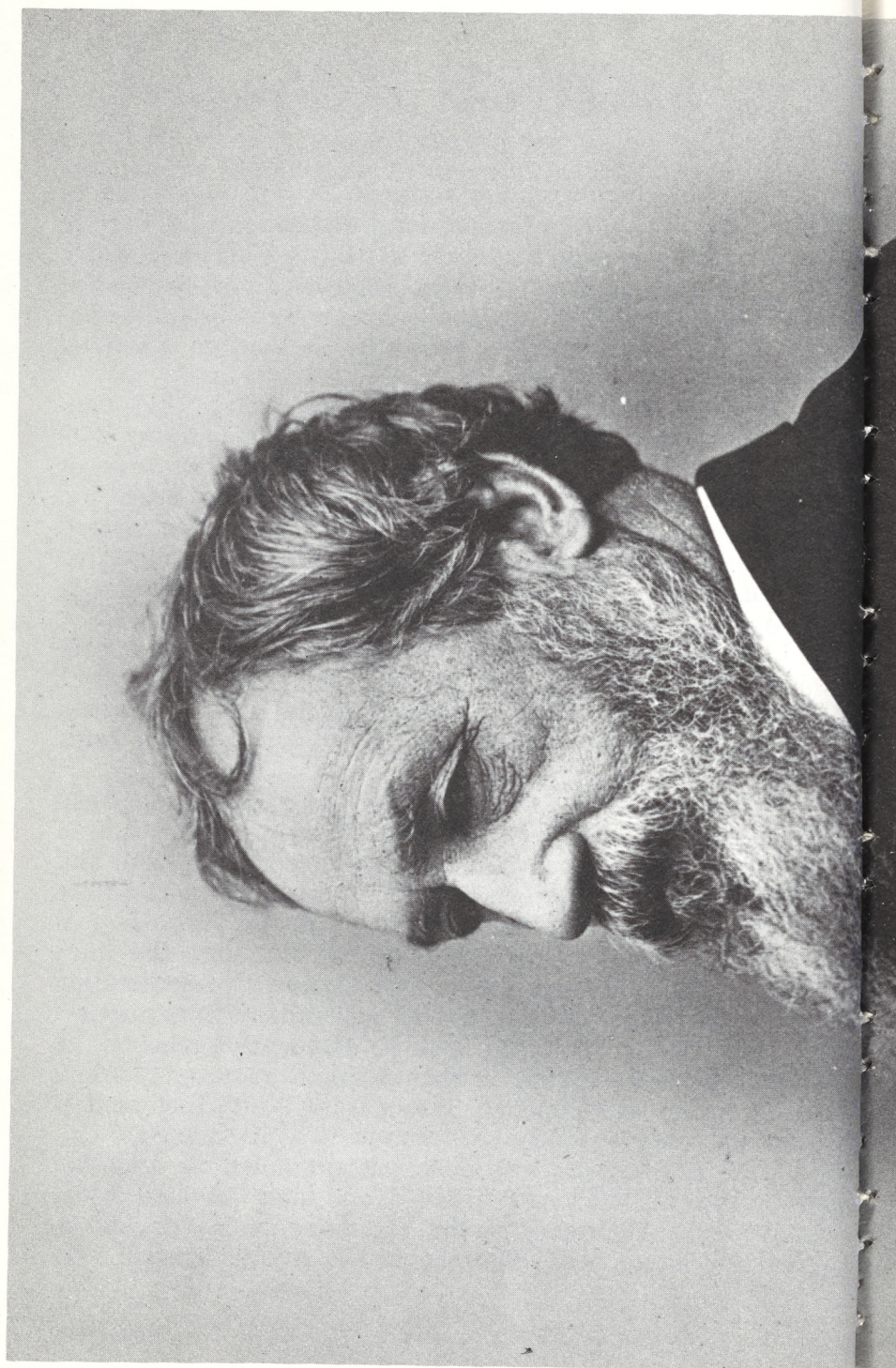
By John E. Baur

The first congressman to reside in Ventura was a man of both national achievement and local dedication. A hero of the War Between the States, he moved to California which had lured several other veterans of general rank who were attracted by the state's unusual spirit, geography and promise. For William Vandever the way to Ventura was long and roundabout.

Born in Baltimore, Maryland on March 31, 1817 Vandever was educated in Philadelphia before moving in 1839 to Illinois. There William spent his early years as a surveyor of the public lands of Illinois and neighboring Iowa and Wisconsin.² In 1846 he became Editor of the *Rock Island Advertiser*, an influential Whig newspaper. Long interested in Whig politics, Vandever had cast his first presidential vote for William Henry Harrison in 1840. With the Whig victory of 1848 Zachary Taylor became President, and young Vandever was appointed to a clerkship in Washington, D.C. Shortly afterward he became a clerk in the office of the Supervisor-General of Iowa, and in 1851 moved with his bride to Dubuque.³

Admitted to the Iowa bar the next year, Vandever began practicing law; and with the rise of the new Republican Party which he early joined he was elected to the 36th and 37th Congresses, representing his eastern Iowa district from March 1859 until September 1861.⁴ On the tragic day of the Union defeat on the battlefield of Bull Run, the Iowa congressman offered a motion that Congress passed stating that nothing would discourage the government from preserving the Union. Practicing what he eloquently preached, he asked Lincoln's Secretary of War, Simon Cameron, to let him raise a volunteer regiment. This was the Ninth Regiment of Iowa Volunteer Infantry with Vandever as its colonel.⁵

During the war Vandever was promoted to brigadier general for his valor at Pea Ridge, and later breveted a major general. He served in the Vicksburg campaign, and in 1864 saw action with Sherman in the Atlanta march. He





Congressman William Vandever
(U.S. Signal Corps. photo)

was also present when Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston surrendered in April 1865. Despite perilous duties Vandever passed through the great conflict uninjured. For the rest of his long life he was very active in the Grand Army of the Republic as a commander of that Union veterans' organization in the Middle West and later in southern California.⁶

His old commander, President Ulysses S. Grant, appointed General Vandever a United States Indian inspector. During his service, 1873-77, he made several visits to California to inspect Indian conditions and was so impressed by the state's resources and people that he eventually moved to Ventura in 1884. He was also powerfully, but negatively, impressed by the corruption in Indian Bureau politics, and told a fellow Midwesterner, D. L. Phillips, about attempts of realty sharpers to sell land in California to the government for Indian affairs purposes and gain \$500,000.⁷

After moving to San Buenaventura, Vandever was prevailed upon by prominent southern California Republicans to run for Congress in 1886. The incumbent, a Republican and southern California's first Congressman, Henry H. Markham, who had moved west partly to regain his health from war-time illness, had become sick again and declined to run for reelection in the far-flung sixth Congressional District which included fifteen counties. By 1890 however, Markham had recovered and was elected governor of California.⁸

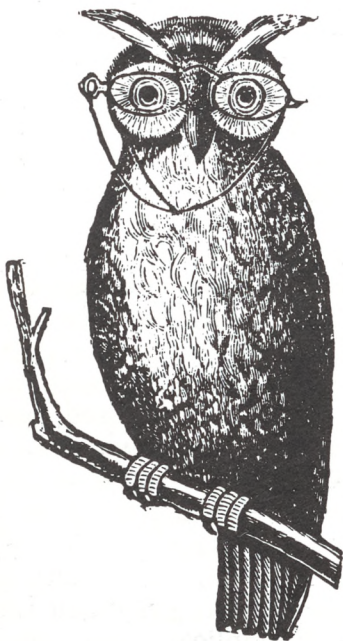
Meanwhile, endowed with a fine voice and the imposing dignity of a tall, soldierly bearing, Vandever spoke widely on his first California campaign. He toured such distant towns as Los Angeles, Bakesfield, Tulare, Visalia, Hanford, Kingston, Fresno, Hollister, San Juan Bautista, Monterey and Salinas. He showed particular interest in the tariff and the economic development of the region. His Democrat opponents were severely critical of the Civil War veteran, accusing him of waving the much-exploited 'Bloody Shirt'. As did many other G.A.R.-favored Republican candidates in postwar days, he emphasized the "dangers" of electing candidates who might oversympathize with former rebels. Democrats replied that Vandever lived in the past and was still fighting the tragic war.⁹ His opposite number, the Demo-

NO BANDANA IN OURS!



The Stars and Stripes Good
Enough for Us.

I'M LOOKING



For Democratic Chickens, but
They're Hid Away.



Protection to American Labor
and Industries !

Republican Meeting!

General Vandever,

Republican nominee for Congress,
Sixth District, will address the
people on the issues of the
day at

H U E N E M E,

Wednesday Oct. 13, 1886.

SANTA PAULA,

Thursday, Oct. 14, 1886.

SAN BUENAVENTURA,

Monday, Nov. 1st.

HON.

H. V. Morehouse,

Will also be present.

The county central committee will
make the necessary arrangements for
the meeting.

By order of the Republican State
Central Committee.

A. P. WILLIAMS,

J. R. FINLAYSON,

Chairman..

Secretary.

cratic candidate, Joseph D. Lynch, belittled the 69-year-old Vandever, calling him a "venerable old gentleman".¹⁰ Yet Vandever also could become aggressive. At Santa Paula he charged that Democratic platforms never sympathized with home industry and that no Union general was a Democrat. The latter allegation was easily disproved by checking the voting habits of Generals Winfield S. Hancock, George B. McClellan, Henry W. Slocum, Joseph Hooker, George G. Meade and George A. Custer!¹¹ Yet, while he charged his opponents with "all the crimes in history except the Crucifixion of Christ, about the perpetration of which offense he seemed a little doubtful",¹² the *Ventura Democrat* felt that Vandever did not adequately deal with the long-lived anti-Chinese question, the perplexing silver issue, harbor development, reclamation of desert regions, liberalization of land laws and various labor problems, all intimately vital to southern Californians.¹³ The Republican-oriented *Ventura Free press*, however, said such attacks on Vandever sounded "like the hiss of a copperhead".¹⁴

Joseph D. Lynch was certainly as colorful a contender as was the aging warrior. Born sixteen years later than Vandever, Lynch was a Pennsylvanian who had studied for the priesthood before turning to literary pursuits and becoming an able New York journalist. In the early 1870's he moved to San Diego to be Editor of the *World* before coming to Los Angeles in 1875. The fleshy, energetic Lynch could turn ill-tempered as was demonstrated in 1879 when he got into a shooting affray with a fellow Angeleno newspaperman, William A. Spalding. After a vitriolic duel on the printed page Spalding realized that a showdown was likely. Lynch always carried a hip-pocket gun; so when they met on the street that August 16, Spalding drew first and fired, but the inaccuracy of his pistol avoided bloodshed, while Lynch's three shots went wild.¹⁵ After ten years as owner of the Los Angeles *Herald* Lynch began to develop the organ in 1886 as "a formidable bulwark for the Democracy".¹⁶ That fall he ran against Vandever. The election results were very close. At first count Vandever had 14,085 votes to 13,587 for Lynch, but a later report showed the Republican's majority had dwindled to only 56 votes.¹⁷ Lynch contested the election

which went to the House of Representatives' committee on elections and dragged on there until April 26, 1888 when that body, despite the Democratic majority in the House, unanimously reported in favor of Vandever's retaining his seat. Unsure of his position for more than half his first term, William Vandever was occupied by a troublesome, expensive contest.¹⁸ Conditions were much more favorable in 1888 when he sought reelection, for that autumn the nation went Republican, electing a G.O.P. Congress and President Benjamin Harrison. Vandever ran against a young, inexperienced Democrat, R. B. Terry, and was returned to office by a solid majority of 7,000 votes.¹⁹

Once his first election was validated, Congressman Vandever became a leading exponent of state division, a movement not new to southern California. Shortly after statehood in the 1850's *Americanos* and Hispanic *Californios* of the region first sought separation of the area below Point Conception, for the gold rush had made their homeland vastly different from the north. Until the 1880's southern California was sparsely populated, typified by cattle ranching and a Hispanic culture and saddled with heavy real estate taxes; while northern California possessed political control, impressive urban and mining development and the state's capital and prestige. Southlanders found travel to that capital slow and expensive, and were convinced that they would get more benefits through separation as a territory and eventual statehood. The war had deflected attention from the issue, but in the eighties it took on new life. Not from local backwardness this time, but because of recent growth in land promotion, industry, agriculture and population, southern California sought a divorce from the privileged north. Promoters and proud residents felt that the 'Southland' now had the people and the wealth to support statehood, while climate, terrain, economy, and sentiments distinguished their region. Foes of the movement accused Congressman Vandever of favoring the locally-popular cause to further his political ambitions, perhaps for a United States Senate seat, saying he would attract more attention through this scheme than any other. Witty editors dubbed his proposed South California "the State of Vandever".²⁰



Vanðever's Majority Over Six Thousand in the District.

The latest advices, which are semi-official, place General Vandever's majority at 6000. The official count is as likely to go over as to fall below that number. This is not only a just indorsement of the able and manly course pursued by the General while in Congress, but it is a just and stinging rebuke to those Democratic orators and papers who have been belittling his services and sneeringly deriding his eminent ability and his faithfulness to his constituents. It is an endorsement which few men receive and is strangely in contrast with that accorded the free-trade Congressmen who were candidates for re-election. There is no denying the fact that General Vandever is the best member that Southern California has ever had in Congress, and that the people of the Sixth district think so. This indorsement, together with his well known ability and sound Republican principles, will give him a standing in Congress second to no other member from the Coast States. The Republicans of Ventura county are to be congratulated on the victory achieved by her illustrious citizen, and the Sixth district has honored itself in thus honoring him.

IT'S ALL RIGHT!



WHERE IS THE "KID"?

LETTER FROM LOS ANGELES

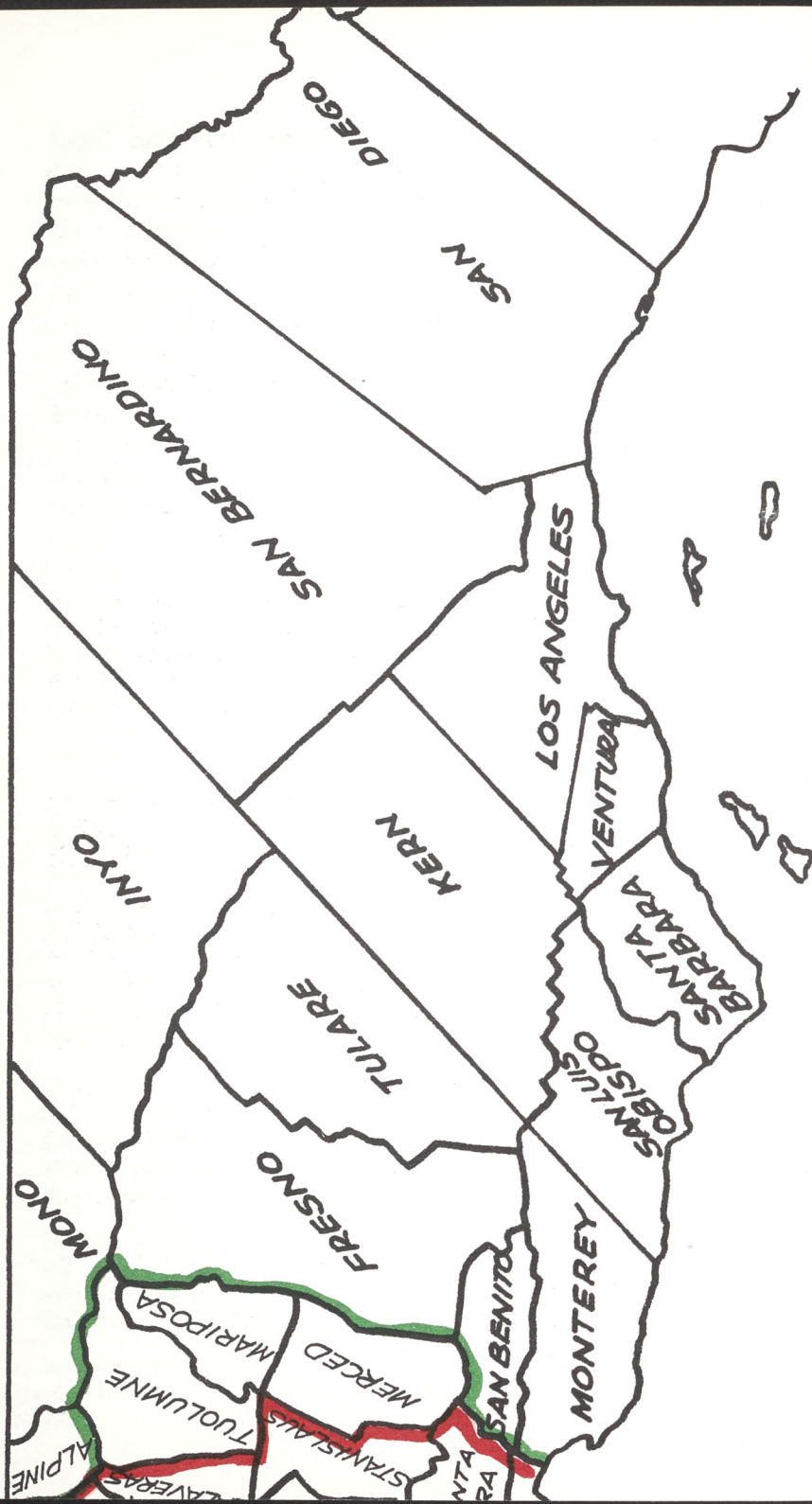
Of all the features of the local political contest just decided the most gratifying is the astonishingly large majority that was given by the Sixth Congressional District of California to General William Vandever. General Vandever has served his constituents well, and he richly deserved the emphatic commendation and support he has received. No district in the entire country has a representative in Congress that is abler or more faithful than our representative. We recognize the fact and we appreciate the man. That is sufficient explanation of the splendid majority of 6000 votes that General Vandever receives.

The old hero holds the fort. He returns to Congress to take a more important position than he has yet occupied, secure in the knowledge that he has the esteem and confidence of his fellow citizens in Southern California.

On December 5, 1888 Representative Vandever introduced a bill in the House which would have given Congressional consent to dividing California from the northeast line of Alpine County (adjacent to Nevada just below Lake Tahoe) and running southwesterly along the northern boundaries of Tuolumne, Merced, San Benito and Monterey Counties to the sea. Californians then would have had the opportunity to vote on the issue.²¹ Defending his bill on December 12, Vandever asserted that San Francisco through corrupt methods virtually controlled state politics and federal patronage and held the balance of power in both of California's political parties. He predicted that Bay Area representatives in Congress would never support his region's needs, now urgently increasing as its population and economy grew. "In Congress I have five of her delegates to oppose me on all propositions for improvements of our harbor," he declared.²² The railroads, favorite villains of California reformers of that period, would see their great powers neutralized by state division, Vandever rationalized. Democrats, however, feared division would produce another Republican state at a time when three of the four already proposed new states were Republican territories! They realized that southern California since the spectacular Boom of the Eighties had experienced a great influx of Midwesterners, mostly Republicans. Meanwhile Vandever admitted to reporters that, although his bill had been tabled by Congress, he believed that its mere introduction would rouse public sentiments which eventually would bring victory.²³

At home, the *Ventura Democrat* tried to show what Pandora-like perils might be hidden in his scheme. It quoted the prestigious San Francisco *Alta California*:

And now Nevada wants a slice of California. Vandever has stuck his fork in the breastbone of this State and is whetting his carving knife in the attitude of a host who asks all the States and Territories, "What is your preference, white meat or dark: any of the stuffin?" Los Angeles wants the San Joaquin Valley up to the Stanislaus line and Nevada wants the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Now let Oregon pass her plate for the rest of us. The discussion so far belittles and disgraces the State and makes a true Californian tingle with indignation while he is not blushing with shame.²⁴



Boundaries: █ 6th District; █ South California

Even earlier Vandever had become interested in a scheme to purchase Baja California from Mexico, and was proposing the economic development of Ensenada. By late 1889 he called for a joint resolution empowering the American president to negotiate with Mexico for this purpose. The additional territory open to Western speculators would have given his proposed State of South California (with its capital at Los Angeles!) enough territory and population for an impressively large state and thus have justified its being severed from Sacramento's authority.²⁵ This plan, too, failed despite much enthusiasm both for and against it in Los Angeles. A filibustering expedition against Lower California at the time complicated the problem. Ever skeptical, the *Ventura Democrat* assayed the situation:

Our stupid and pompous old congressman divides his time between haunting the departments [at Washington] in the interest of office hunters, and formulating a bill for the annexation of Lower California — an impractical scheme engineered by speculators and adventurers who have bribed or humbugged him into their service.²⁶

Although the *Hollister Advocate* in the northern part of his district was not alone in calling Vandever "a worthless stick of political timber", he accomplished several worthwhile things for his scattered constituents. Representative of a section ever conscious of maritime commerce, he worked for harbor improvements at San Diego, San Pedro and Santa Barbara, and introduced a bill appropriating \$100,000 for the creation of a harbor at Ventura.²⁷ In 1890 he successfully proposed bills establishing Yosemite, Sequoia, and General Grant National Parks, enacted September 25 and October first of that year. The *Los Angeles Express* rightly called this "a magnificent heritage to posterity", for which John Muir had long struggled. In commemoration of his efforts 11,800-foot Mount Vandever in the High Sierra was soon named for him.²⁸

Despite the fact that in 1888 his fellow Republicans represented a minority in Congress and federal patronage seekers ruled the Post Office Department under President Cleve-

land, Vandever worked hard to get appropriations for southern California's mail. An observer that year said that he made almost daily visits to the department where he appealed for relief "and has introduced bill after bill and had them referred to committees, and has followed them up and urged their favorable consideration". Some relief came, but not enough to satisfy Californians who complained that appropriations were inadequate.²⁹ Vandever also supported a victorious endeavor to have California's 'own' General John C. Frémont granted a pension shortly before the 'Pathfinder's' death in 1890; but Vandever angered many southlanders by favoring St. Louis over Chicago, origin of many of them, as site of the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 (Chicago won anyway).³⁰

In the fall of 1890 the aging politician was no longer boosted as a Republican candidate to succeed himself. Even the Los Angeles *Times* which had defended him in the campaigns of 1886 and 1888 was displeased that he had obtained only \$35,000 to improve San Pedro harbor, noted that he had made many unfulfilled promises and did not like his state division campaign which had divided southern Californians more than it actually threatened to divide the state. His Baja California scheme also seemed to threaten America's improving relations with Mexico.³¹ Others were disappointed that he had not sponsored national irrigation for a thirsty Southwest. Actually, their premature cries did not bring action until Theodore Roosevelt's era.

In an age of corruption charges were made against even this hero, but without any evidence, that he had been involved in fraud. Even the super-critical Ventura *Democrat* insisted, "We are not prepared to believe that he is wantonly corrupt or dishonest".³²

In 1891 Vandever left office. At first he probably hoped for a third term despite little popular enthusiasm for it. A younger man was desired and one more active. The San Diego *Sun* complained that his name was seldom seen in the eastern press or the *Congressional record*. On June 4, 1890 he formally announced he would not seek renomination. The Republicans chose William W. Bowers who won Vandever's seat that November.³³

Already ailing when he left office at age 74, William Vandever died of heart disease at Ventura on July 23, 1893. After a Presbyterian service and G.A.R. ceremonies his remains were interred in the Ventura Cemetery. He left a widow, one son and two daughters.³⁴

With over eighty years of hindsight it seems safe to say that Vandever did his best. Hard-working, serious, honest, sincere, well-liked in his adopted state, he attracted much criticism however. Most of his shortcomings were unavoidable for he served southern California during its first rapid growth when an impatient public was boosting overblown expectations and making grandiose boasts. Much of his four-year tenure in Washington was clouded by a disputed election while he served in a Congress controlled by a rival party. Meanwhile, California's other five House members, representing the north, offered him little cooperation and considerable malice! Southern California's towns, then suffering from such a regional 'chauvinism' in their rivalries with each other for government favors, would have perplexed King Solomon himself had he tried to serve their objectives! So short a residence in the region prior to his election did not help Vandever either. His achievements, then, seem more distinguished when we see what had to be overcome. And his coming to political power was symbolic of his county's and region's significant political future. By the turn of the century, Ventura County would send a United States senator to Washington.

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2. "Major General William Vandever," *Annals of Iowa* (Des Moines) I, October 1893, 236-237. As an Illinois resident Editor Vandever had tirelessly supported railroad building in that frontier state. See also *The past and present of Rock Island County, Ill.* (Chicago, H. F. Kitt & Co., 1877) 156-157.
3. He married a Miss Williams of Davenport, Iowa.
4. F. I. Herriot, "Iowa and the first nomination of Abraham Lincoln," *Annals of Iowa*, VIII, October 1907, 205 and 208. In Iowa Vandever was accused of supporting the anti-foreign Know-

- Nothing Party, but publicly stated that he did not oppose foreigners nor did he want naturalization laws stricter. His constituency in Iowa contained many French, German, Irish and Swiss-born voters!
5. John E. Briggs, "The enlistment of Iowa troops during the Civil War," *Iowa journal of history and politics* (Iowa City) XV, July 1917, 345 and also Edward H. Stiles, *Recollections and sketches of notable lawyers and public men of early Iowa* (Des Moines, Homestead Publishing Company, 1916) 132-134.
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 11. *Op. cit.*
 12. *Ibid*, September 30, 1886, p. 3.
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 15. "The shooting affray at Los Angeles," San Francisco *Alta California*, August 19, 1897, p. 1. For a fuller discussion of Lynch, see William Andrew Spalding, *Los Angeles newspaperman; an autobiographical account* ed. by Robert V. Hine (San Marino, Huntington Library, 1961) 89-90 and 100-103.
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25. "Californias on important House committees," *Los Angeles Times*, December 18, 1889, p. 4 and *Ventura Free press*, July 21, 1887, p. 2. For an interesting treatment of contemporary moves to acquire Baja California, see Anna Marie Hager, ed., *The Filibusters of 1890: The Captain John F. Janes and Lower California newspaper reports* (Los Angeles, Dawson's Book Shop, 1968).
26. *Ventura Democrat*, January 16, 1890, p. 2.
27. *Ventura Free press*, February 5, 1888, p. 2 and May 13, 1889, p. 2; and *Los Angeles Express*, July 24, 1893, p. 4.
28. *Los Angeles Express*, June 6, 1890, p. 4; William Frederic Bade, ed., *The life and letters of John Muir* (2 vols., Boston and New York, Houghton Mifflin Company, 1924) II, 234; Francis P. P. Farquhar, "Exploration of the Sierra Nevada," *California Historical Society quarterly*, IV, March 1925, 44; and Farquhar, comp., "Place names of the High Sierra, Part III," *Sierra Club bulletin* (San Francisco) XII, 1925, 140.
29. *Los Angeles Times*, March 4, 1888, p. 4 and May 28, 1890, p. 2; and *Ventura Free press*, February 23, 1888, p. 2.
30. *Ventura Democrat*, March 20, 1890, p. 2.
31. *Los Angeles Times*, May 28, 1890, p. 4.
32. *Ventura Democrat*, October 31, 1889, p. 2.
33. *Los Angeles Times*, May 27, 1890, p. 1; May 29, p. 2; May 31, p. 4; and June 5, p. 1.
34. *Ventura Democrat*, July 28, 1893, p. 3 and *Ventura Free press*, July 28, 1893, p. 4. Vandever died in modest circumstances. After several setbacks Col. David B. Henderson, his friend in Congress, finally got a pension for Vandever's widow, who had helped nurse sick and wounded of both Union and Confederate sides during the war. Edward H. Stiles, *op. cit.*, 152-153.

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VENTURA
COUNTY
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
QUARTERLY

Vol. XX, No. 2

Winter 1975

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The Ventura County Historical Society's headquarters is the Pioneer Museum, 77 North California Street, Ventura, California. All communications should be addressed to the Society at the Pioneer Museum. There are three classes of membership: active, \$10.00 per year including husband and wife; sustaining, \$25 per year; and life, \$100. Memberships include subscription to the *Quarterly*. Additional copies are available at \$2.00 each.

The *Quarterly* is published from the Society's headquarters at the Pioneer Museum. The Society assumes no responsibility for the statements or opinions of authors of various articles. Grant W. Heil is Editor and the Staff includes Mrs. Naydean L. Baker, Mrs. Florence Dawson, Duane L. Garber, Charles H. Heil, David W. Hill, Miss Linda C. Jordan, Junius H. Kellam, Charles F. Outland, Thomas A. Roe and Richard D. Willett.

Five hundred copies printed for the Ventura County Historical Society by Clark's Printing Co., Ventura, California.

In Memoriam

HOMER WAITE GERRY

1893-1974

H. Waite Gerry was a charter member of the Ventura County Historical Society, served on its Board of Directors and was Vice-President, 1957-1958. During the illness of President Roth, he conducted the meetings of the Society.

The Ventura County Historical Society *Quarterly*

Grant W. Heil, Editor

Vol. XX, No. 2

Winter 1975

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THE LIBBEY BARN

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Notice

Austen Pierpont relates how the men of the twenties erected their mansions. The estate became a synthesis of the owner's taste and the architect's design. The second article supplies the background.

All of the photographs were taken by Thomas A. Roe © 1970. Jay Kellam drew the map of the estate.



Buttressed and bastioned

BILL LUCKING'S FOLLY*

By Austen Pierpont

I had built a little house by Pierpont Inn in Ventura where we used to live in the summer. William Lucking, Sr. stayed at the Inn for quite a while and we were introduced. He had just bought the Ojai estate and did not know exactly what he wanted to do with it. I was just beginning in the business those days, so whatever he wished seemed all right with me. The place just grew; not only was there no master plan, there was no consecutive idea of things. The first step was to remodel the old dairy barn; we gutted it, tearing all the old stations out, ripped off the roof until the building was like a skeleton. Since the latter

* A popular name for any costly structure considered to have shown folly in the builder. The original meaning seems to have been 'delight', 'favorite abode'. *The Oxford English dictionary*.



Main hall

was a light one, it was necessary to reinforce it structurally by reinforced concrete to put in a heavy beam ceiling. After the strengthening which included buttresses on the outside to stiffen the wall, we stood around to decide what to do with the big room. Mr. Lucking wanted a large fireplace at one end, and he liked the idea of a balcony at the other. Nothing more was done that year except to cover the cement floor; it sloped for drainage and the wooden flooring was superimposed on it. A thick peg-wood floor went well with the rest.

Mr. Lucking went East again; and when he came back he thought he would do something with the other room. It was just an unfinished area that the original owners had not decided what they wanted to do with it. Mr. Lucking got the idea of decorating the place by building heavy furniture of his own design. He had a passion for things that were massive and very crude, and possibly masculine. A

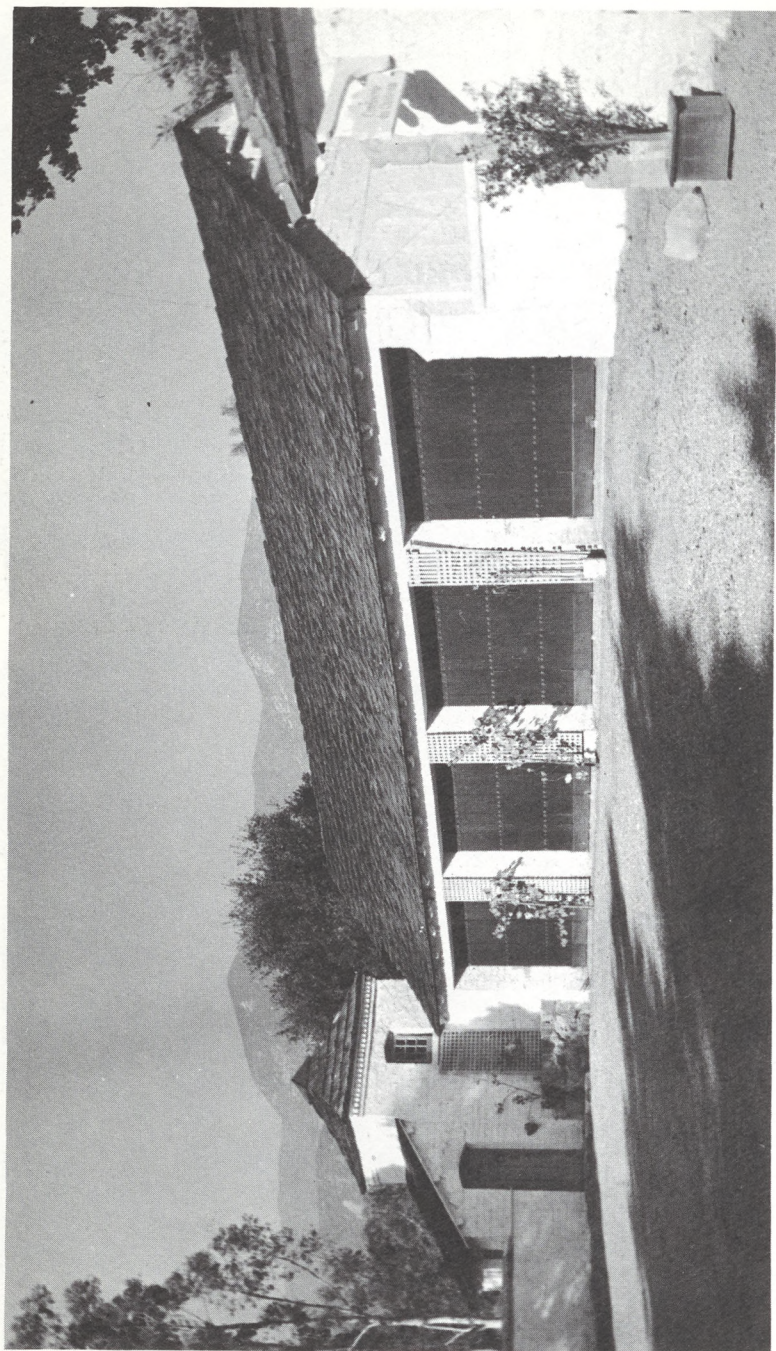


Spanish furniture

whole truck full of oak was bought at the Peoples Lumber Company in Santa Paula, which had been stored from the old days of the oil boom when it was used for the big wheels and walking beams of the old fashioned drill rigs. This lumber had been cured for 20 to 30 years because there was no demand for it. It was two to three inch material which was practically impossible to buy except at wholesale. Bill Williams was the carpenter, a big husky fellow from Arkansas, who knew how to use an adze. He had done that kind of thing in his childhood since Arkansas is the home of a great deal of oak timber. They split it for fences; and Mr. Lucking used to say, "Well, Bill always reminds me of Abe Lincoln". I had bought a number of authentic books on Spanish furniture; he would look at them, and we were influenced by these publications. We did some great, heavy tables with long benches. They had two and one half to three inch tops and big turned legs, which required a large lathe in Santa Paula. The design was from good direct sources and we did not copy any of the so-called Spanish work which was being produced in California.



Quarters

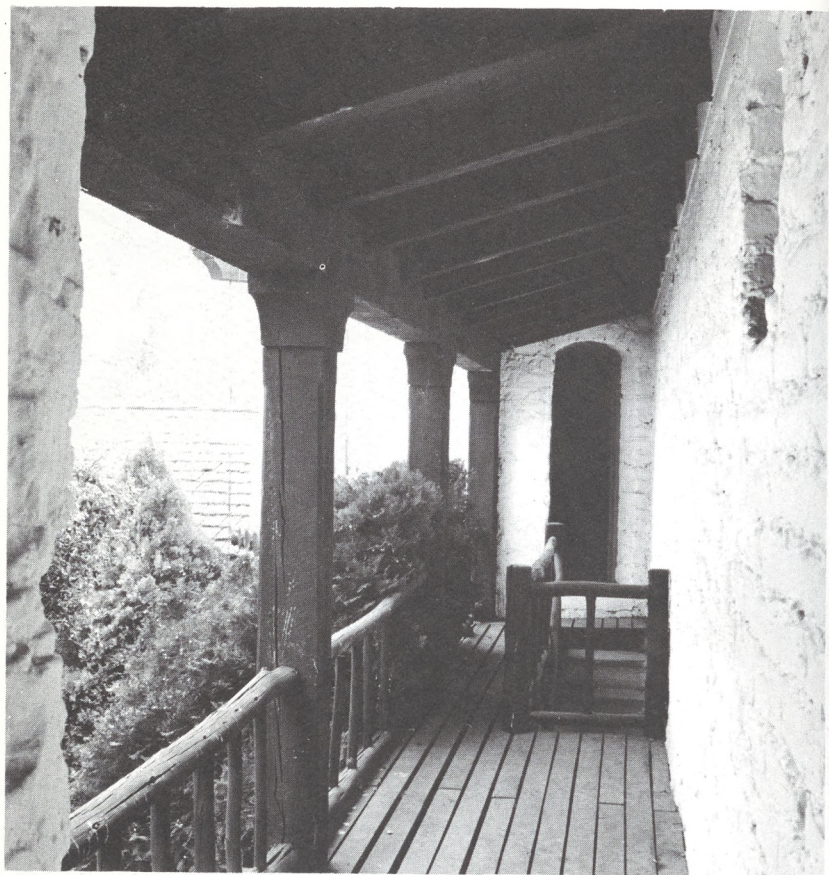


Coach house



Gatehouse

Mr. Lucking would go home to Detroit for the summer, but show up the next winter. Without warning he would call from the hotel and say that he was coming out to meet me, "I'd like to talk about some things up at the place"; and thus we would go, "I'm going to build this and that". Then we would plan a little project and have it started in the spring; and he would stand around and watch us put the finishing touches on later in the early summer, and repeat the process the next year. The first separate building was the inexpensive house for servants, so that caretakers could live there. All building from then on was in concrete block. They were laid irregularly and brushed with a cement coating to soften the harsh lines. Mr. Lucking had a wonderful time during the summer in southern France; and he was influenced by books on the manor houses and farmsteads of the French Provence. The garage, a coach house with its gatehouse, shows this architecture. It fitted into

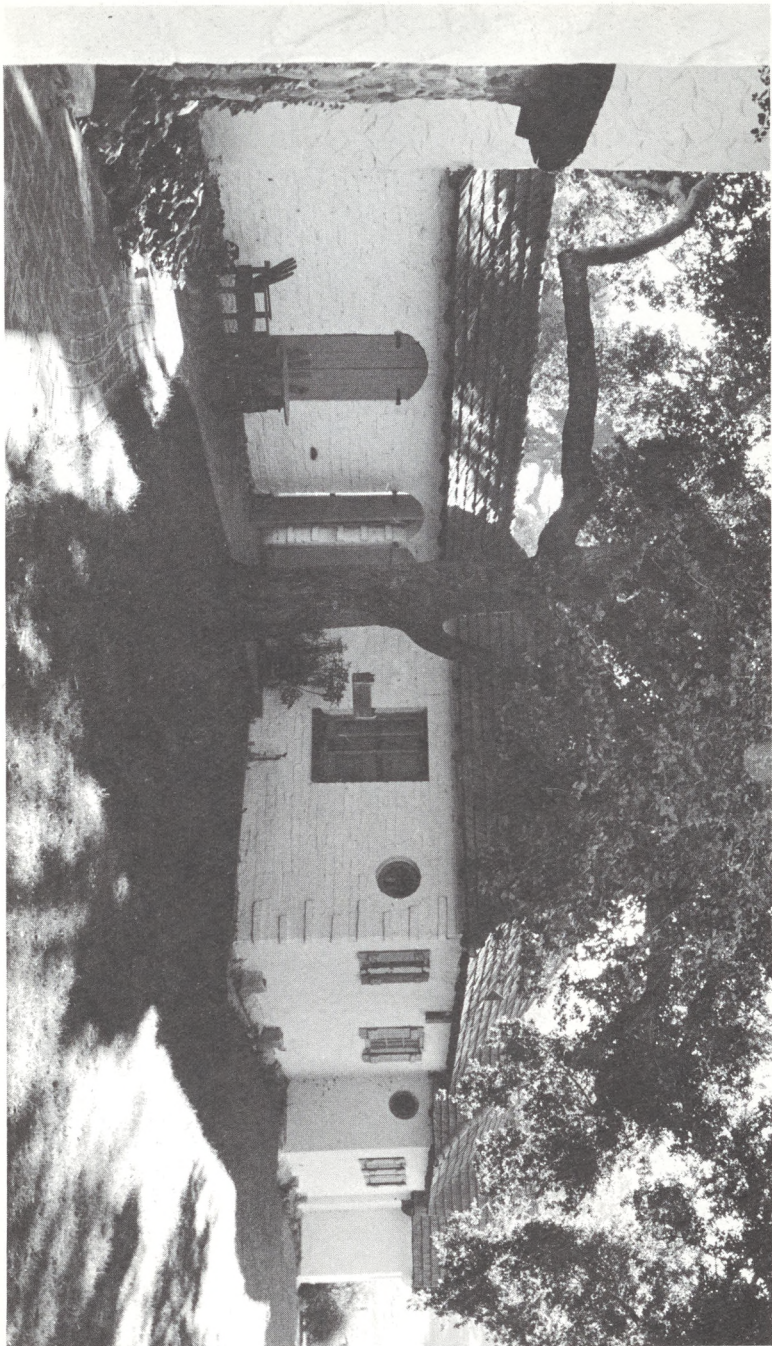


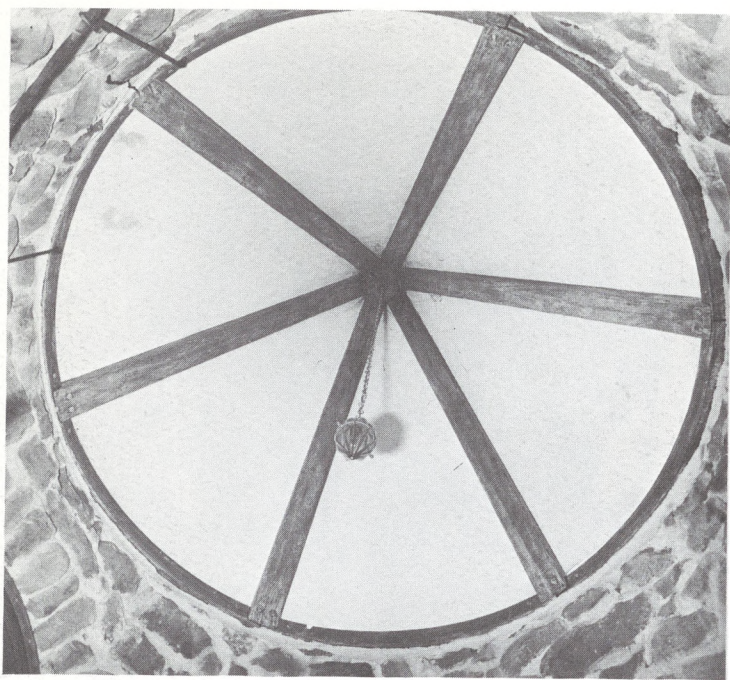
Balcony

the original plan of Wallace Neff. The exterior of the first building was not altered except to open a door from the tower onto his outside balcony. It created a hide-away office on the second floor.

The wing of bedrooms required a roof pitch of a different character. The string of little bits of rooms with built-in beds ends in the round stone turret. The apartment was completed another summer. He never got around to remodeling the box stalls, although he had considered making a conventional suite of two bedrooms and a bath.

Bedroom wing

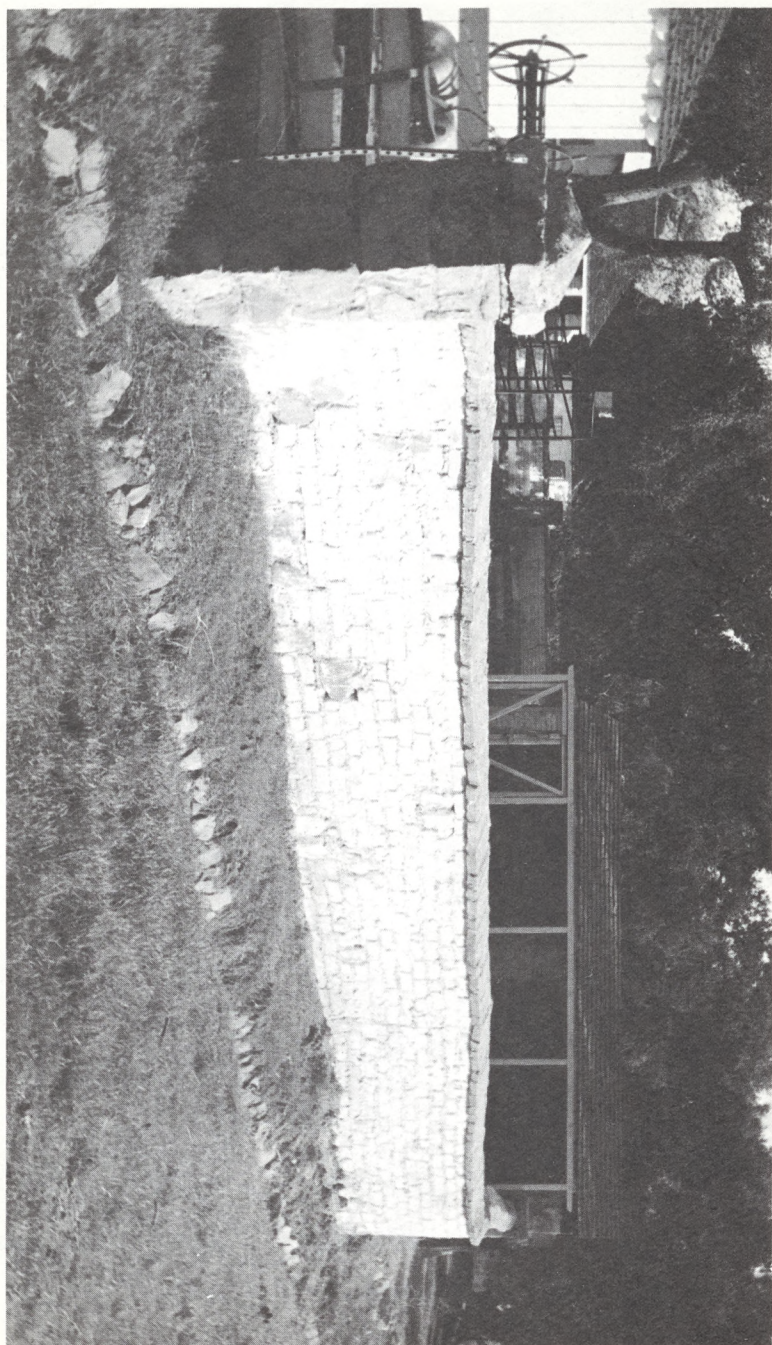




Turretted and pointed



Wall



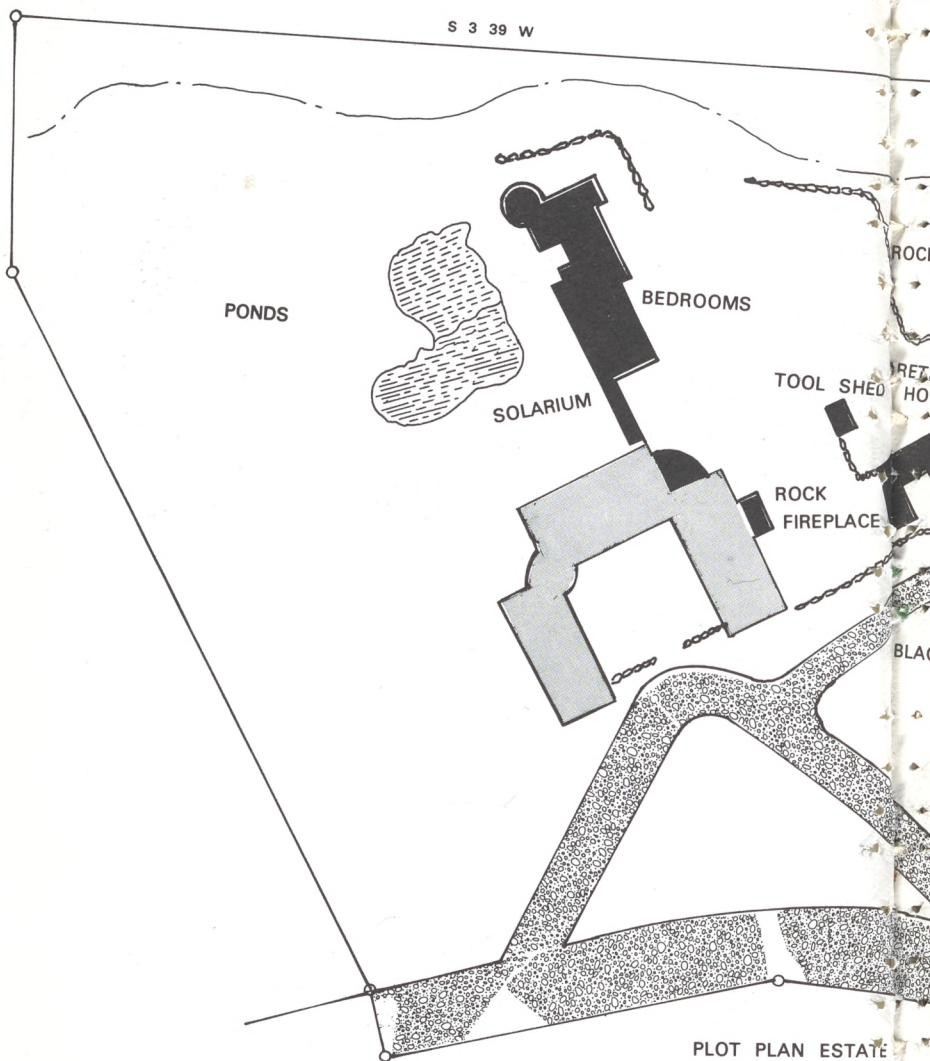


Fireplace



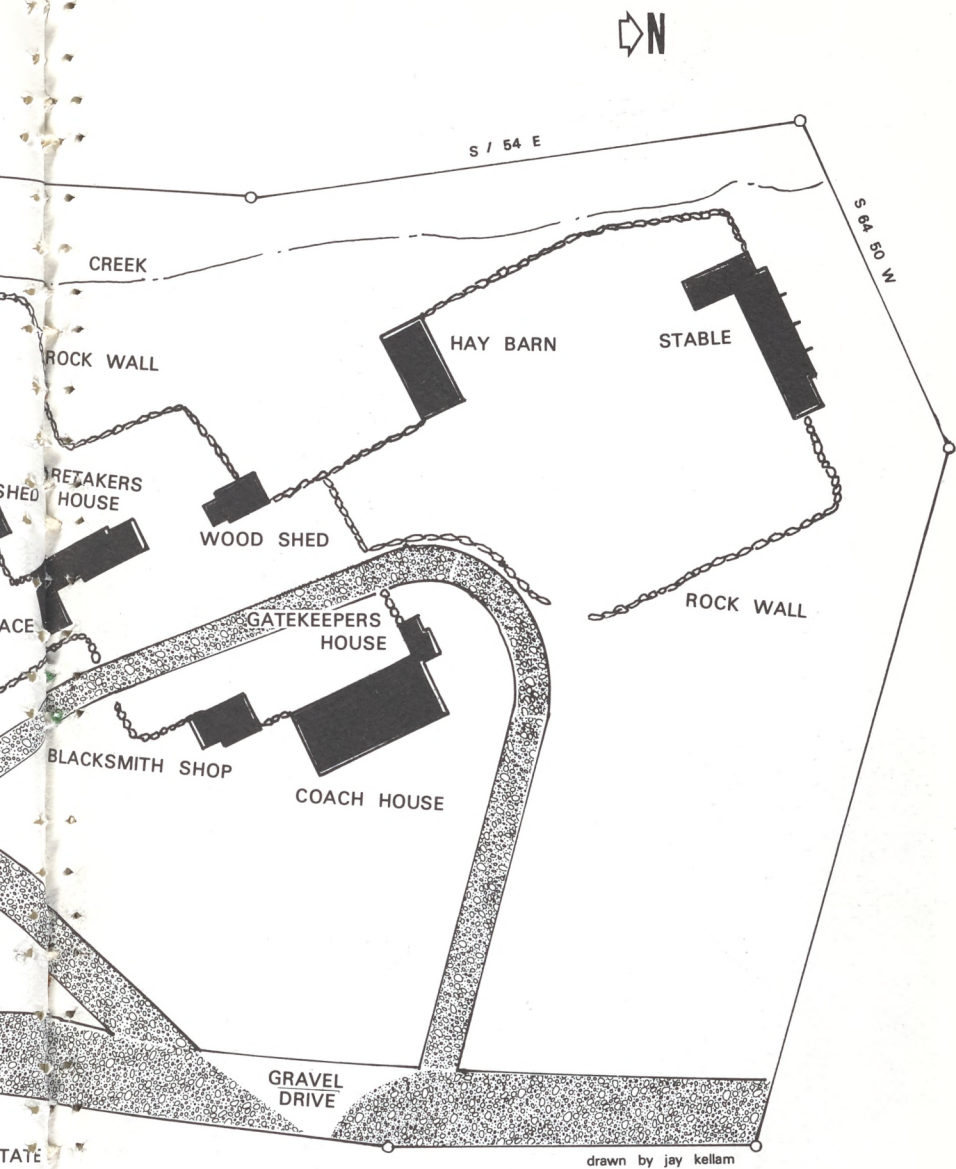
Smithy

There were two men who did the stone work: Emile Faure was a stone mason; and Ramon Valderama was from Valencia, a big, big fellow about six foot two, broad shoulders and strong as an ox. Ramon helped the Frenchman; he would mix the mortar and carry the brick and rocks. They used native stones, and Mr. Lucking would always give them work building walls. Emile Faure created the big fireplace in the dining room with him admiring those round boulders superimposed on each other as though they were a pile of balls. I told him so, but he said, "That's all right; I'm paying for it and I like it and that's it". In addition to the other three Jack Dron was the blacksmith. He had the little shed with the forge at the end of it. It contained a whole set of black-



PLOT PLAN ESTATE

■ E.D. Libbey
■ William Liking

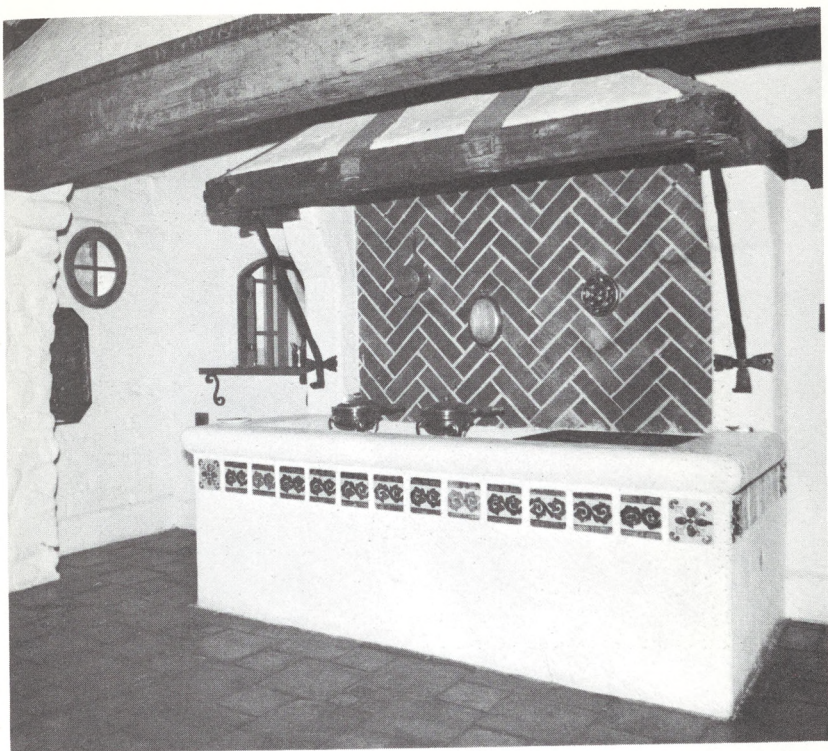


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Stone copula

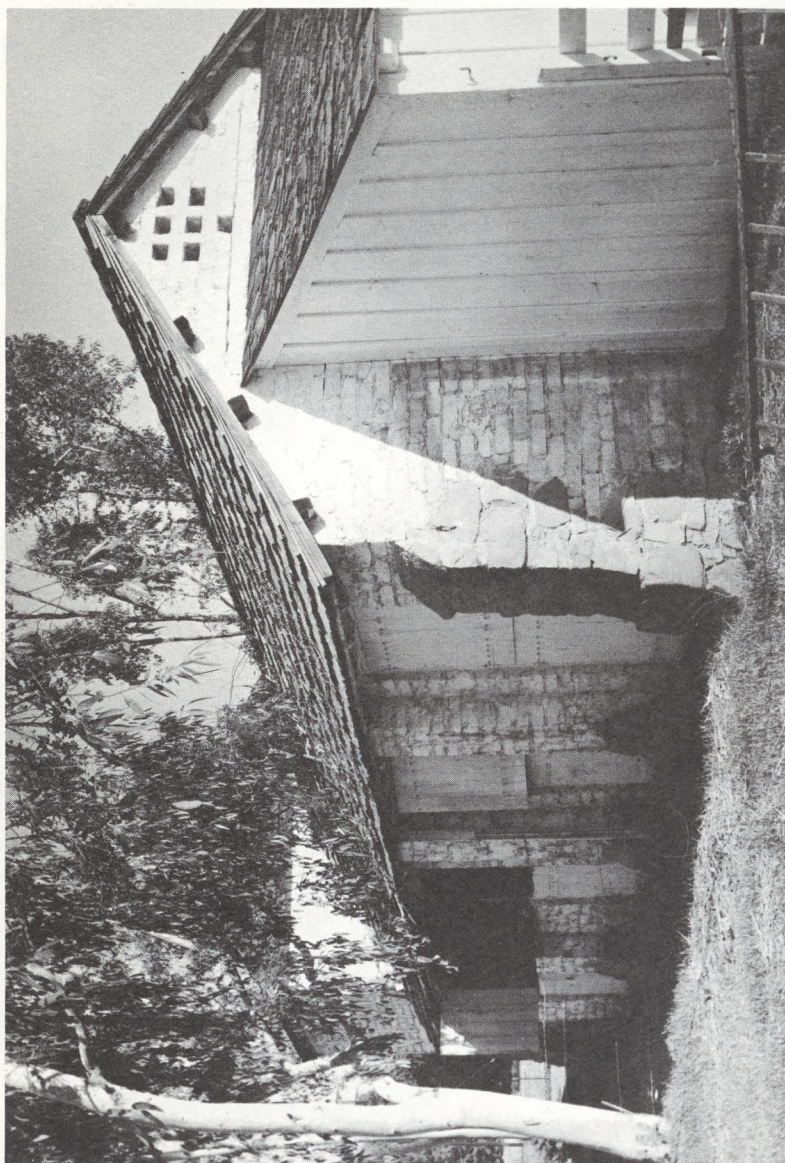




Tile on hearth and floor

smithing tools, an anvil and bellows. Jack could do a bit of everything, and he made the iron work.

The quarter tower was a necessary link between the two great rooms. And since there was no plumbing in either of the buildings other than the kitchen sink, there was need of a washroom off the passageway. The tile floor in the kitchen and dining room came from the old Alhambra Tile Company in Pasadena. It was all hand made. The roofing is of redwood shakes from northern California. The shutters are not functional but fit into the Provencal scene. Except for the two big rooms the others have small fireplaces, the caretaker's house has three in it. These are inset like the one on the balcony. Two tanks provided a fishpond and a wading pool to feed a small stream in European fashion.

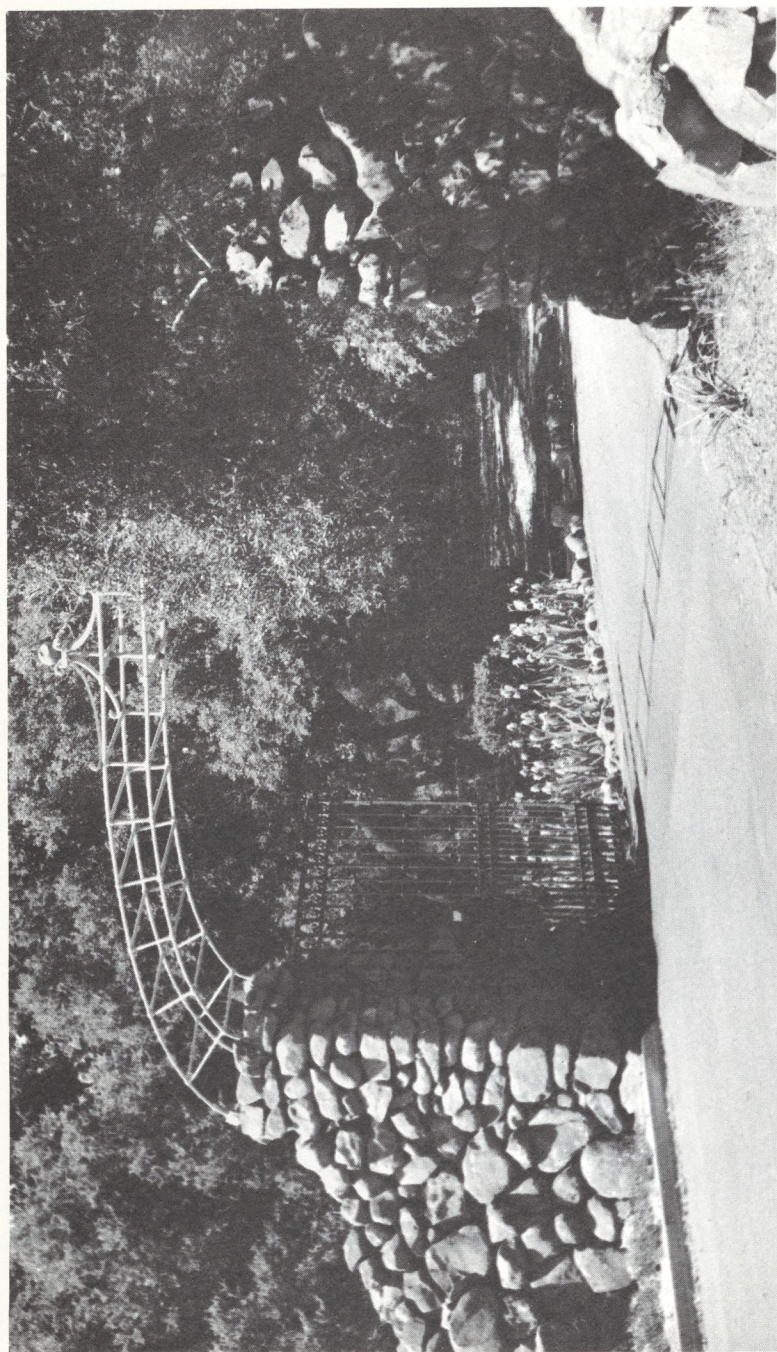


Backside

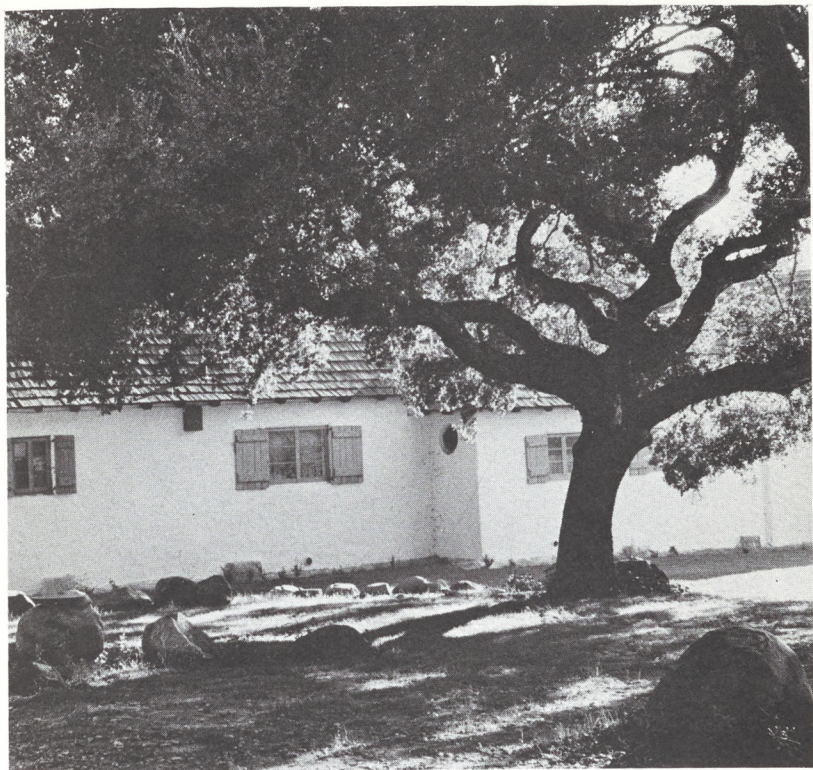


Stables

The stables were the last, and the surroundings were never developed. With the growth of trees, they do not stand out by themselves too badly. Mr. Lucking about quit everything, and did not come out so much.



Entrance on Foothill



Oaks

THE LIBBEY BARN

From Interviews

The first railroad to Nordhoff had a locomotive which burned wood. In order to supply the Ojai terminus, a Gambastogne cleared the oaks at the lower end of the valley. When John Burke of the Ojai Valley Improvement Company heard that the Arbolada* was next, he persuaded Foster & Hubby to buy it; and Edward Drummond Libbey secured the land from them. He intended to develop it as a real estate subdivision of one acre lots. An impressive stone and iron gate on Foothill Road was the entrance.



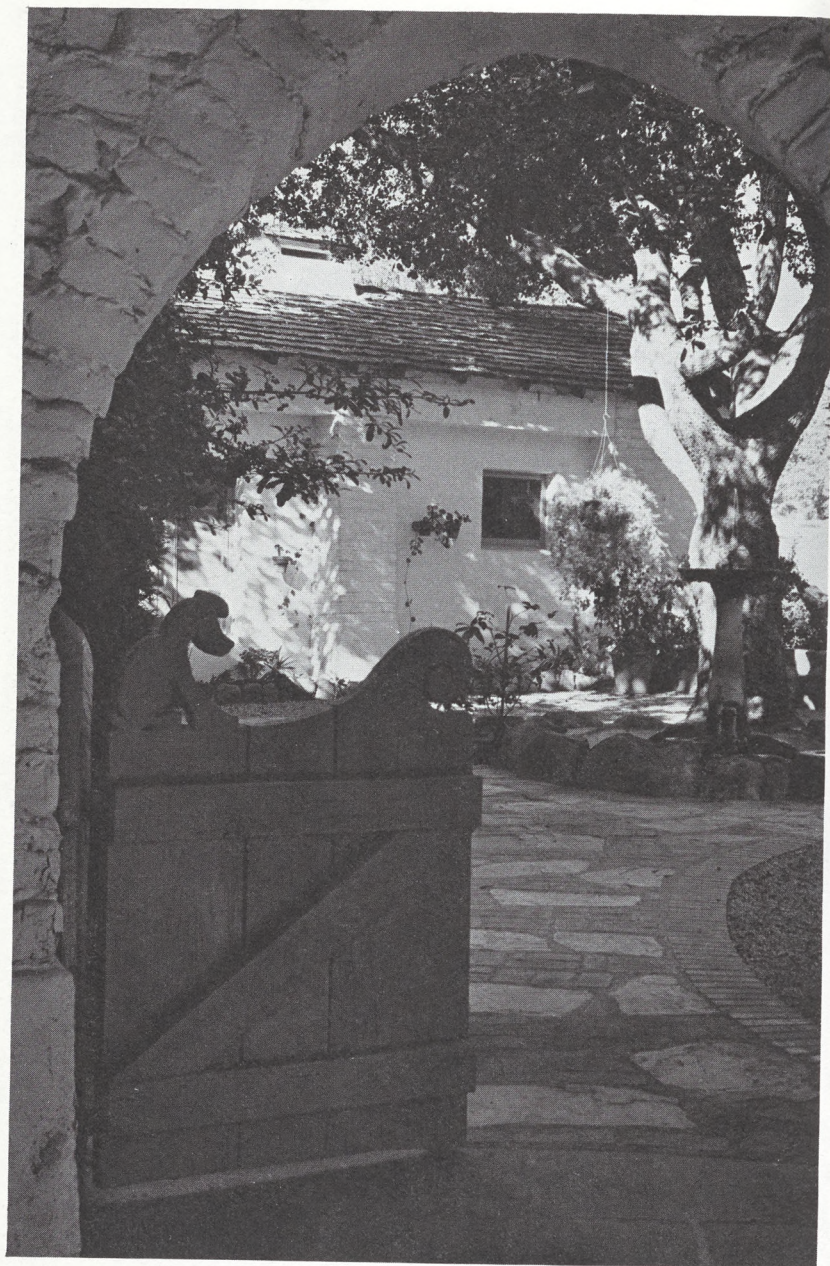
Lodge



Tower

From his rustic home near Fairview, Libbey supervised the development. Gangs of men were employed to clear the underbrush and install winding drives with curbs lined with native stone. Richard Requa designed the first homes. Then Robert Winfield became the builder, and he erected the entrance lodge.

Wallace Neff, brought from Pasadena in 1915, was secured as the architect for the dairy barn with a house projected on the knoll above, on an estate of 40 acres. Since no concrete block was available, he used adobe brick to build the main building which looked more like a Norman lodge



Gate

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on
w
lo



Box stalls

with the pointed arches and a round tower. The stables were on the right, and a utility room was on the left. The unit was never used; but the cat and dog carved on the gate looking into the court show Libbey's interest in Ojai.



Patio

William Lucking, Sr. of Henry Ford's legal counsel bought the property in 1927. Austen Pierpont became his designer, and the first unit was transformed. The original openings were kept with the lower windows replaced by French doors. A truss with three members upheld the roof, and a small gallery was stubbed in from the tower.

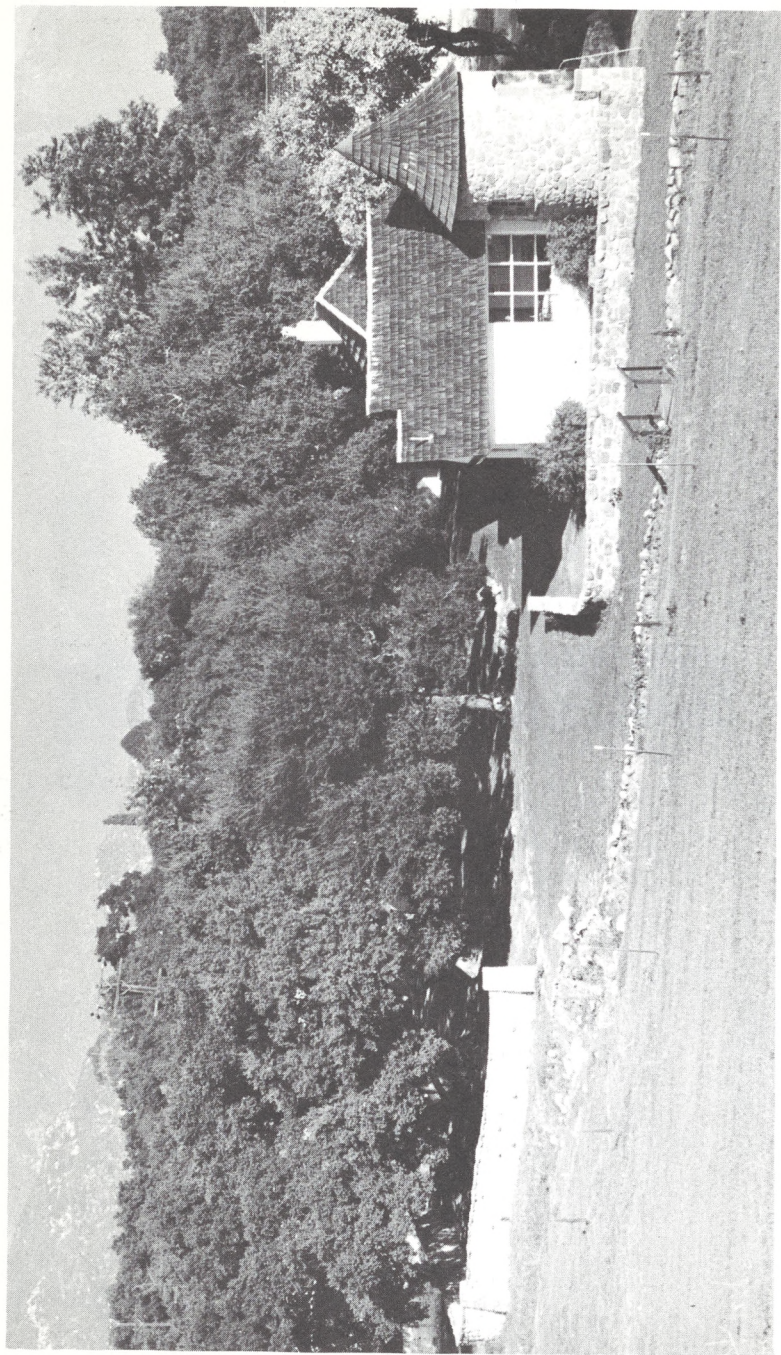
Lucking was to supervise five years of building, from 1928 to 1933. He saw the decorated risers in Santa Barbara, but the Mexican tile was purchased from Whalen on Olivera St. in Los Angeles. The iron chandelier was a fitting



Beams, ironwork and tile



Beams, ironwork and tile



Stream along the outside



Exit

center piece. He switched from the large Spanish concept around a patio to the small Provencal idea for the outer construction. The stone walls were also his addition, creating courts around the buildings.

**Arbolada* by Harold G. Gulliver; reprinted from *Country Life*, September 1924.

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Santa Paula **CENTENNIAL**



1875

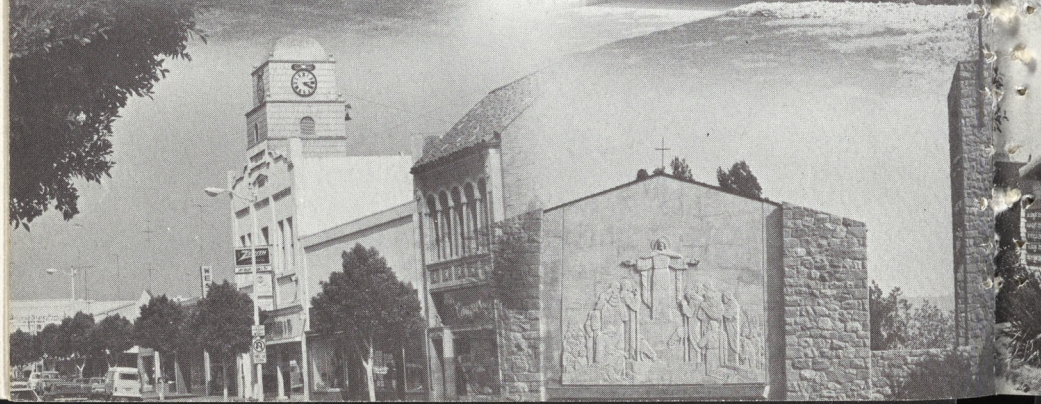
1975

JUNE 16, 1875

VENTURA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY
Vol. XX, No. 3 **SPRING 1975**



Names that made its history still appear in Santa Paula. Nathan Weston Blanchard III, IV and V sit on the steps of the Limoneira, the largest of the citrus farms whose orchards surround the city. The Teague McKevitt Co. is part of the growing industry and business. Santa Paula Savings & Loan Association serves the investor, the builder and the owner of homes. Religious and public institutions have always had a part.





Santa Paula

CENTENNIAL

1875-1975

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The

VENTURA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Spring 1975

Grant W. Heil, Editor

Contents

From the Ventura Signal:

Information for Those Seeking Homes in Southern California

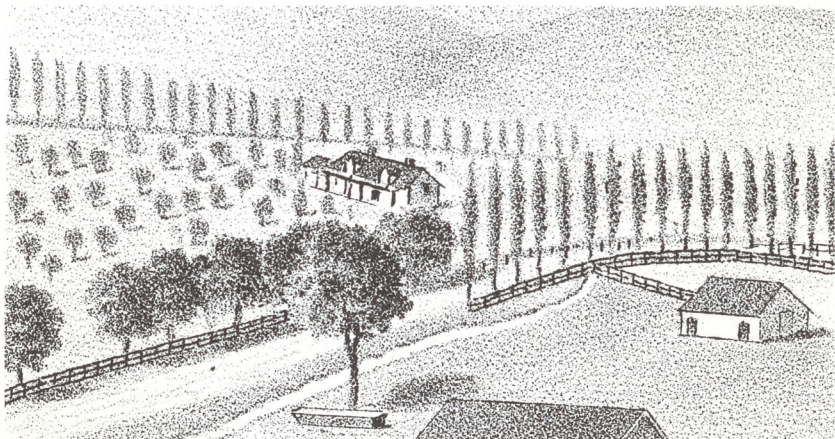
Santa Paula Items

Inducements to the Homeseeker

Notice

There had been previous attempts to develop the Santa Paula, but none had been successful until the 1870's. In spite of snowfall locally, drought in southern California, the burst of the Boom of the Seventies in California and the Panic of 1873 nationally, Nathan W. Blanchard platted in 1873 and registered on June 16, 1875 the Town of Santa Paula.

Dean H. Blanchard supplied the family pictures; the others, and the files of the *Ventura Signal* are from the Pioneer Museum. David Hill collated the photography, mounting the map and advertisements. Duane Garber made the montage of his photographs on the endpages.



SANTA CLARA VALLEY

No county in southern California probably offers more inducements to the settler, the tourist and the invalid. To the settler it gives more acreage of tillable land adapted to the cultivation of an infinite variety of crops. Its great Santa Clara Valley (lying along the river of that name, which rises in the Soledad Cañon sixty miles from the ocean) is much like an Illinois prairie, and widens out from the foothills to the sea for miles in extent. The valley varies from 10 to 20 miles in width.

Messrs. Bristol, Evans, Gray, Gries, Haines, Todd, Sewell and others have demonstrated in their orchards that anywhere in the valley the finest of apples, peaches, apricots, nectarines, etc. can be grown to perfection. It is in this valley that the great nurseryman and orchardist, Dana B. Clark of Santa Barbara, is planting his 100-acre orange orchard. Mr. Clark traveled all over southern California looking for a suitable location, making the price of land a secondary consideration. The fact that a man of his wide experience and observation should have selected this valley for his orchard is proof sufficient to those who know him that the orange and all the semi-tropical fruits can be successfully grown here.

The soil of this great valley is a close-grained sandy loam, without a hardpan or clay subsoil. There is occasionally a spot of adobe or black rich loam. The soil throughout is deep, averaging from 10 to 30 feet. It takes in and holds moisture remarkably well, and being near the sea has the advantage of the ocean mists at the growing season when moisture is most needed.

SANTA PAULA Y SATICOY

Outside of the small amount of government land, the land of Ventura County is divided up into large ranches. South of the Ex-Mission Ranch in the very heart of the Santa Clara Valley, the CREME DE LA CREME, is the celebrated Briggs or Santa Paula y Saticoy Ranch. This was the first large body of land in the county thrown into the market. It was purchased several years ago by the great orchardist, Mr. Briggs, with a view of converting it into an immense apple, peach and apricot orchard. Mr. Briggs having the idea that by coming so far south he could get into the San Francisco market several weeks ahead of his northern neighbors with his fruit. Experience proved his error. He found this to be a cool climate, owing to the nearness of the sea with its continual breezes and that his fruit, instead of ripening before it did about Marysville and Sacramento, was two or three weeks later. He immediately proposed to cut it up into 160-acre lots and sell it off. He placed it in the hands of E. B. Higgins in 1867, who advertised it and caused many good citizens to locate upon it who have made improvements and grown orchards such as would have required twice the time in the northwestern or eastern states. Along the south side of this ranch runs the Santa Clara River, one of the largest and longest streams in southern California. It rises in the mountains and runs through the Soledad Pass, giving the best outlet from the interior to the sea, the one adopted by the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad Company.

No better corn land, or more desirable for the hog raiser, can be found in the world than can be had on this ranch at reasonable prices. Barley and wheat grow most luxuriantly. The herder of the hogs (hogs are herded here as are sheep) when the barley is ready, turns them on; and the hogs do the harvesting at their leisure and, when fattened, are driven to market. The ranch contains 17,773 acres, all tillable, and is now owned in tracts of from 1,000 to 40 acres. Those holding the large tracts have cut them up into small lots, and are now offering them for sale at prices from \$25 to \$50 per acre. To the eastern man these may seem to be large figures for land which has little or no improvements. When he considers that the land here unlike those of the western prairies, has no sod to turn over, that there is no grubbing of brush or root and that he can work his land any month in the year and can at his leisure harvest and store his grain with safety in the field until ready to haul to market, he will see that the land is not high. When he comes here and puts in his crop and realizes upon it, he will find that he gets more for his labor and a better interest on the money invested in his land than elsewhere.

For the man in ordinary circumstances no better place can be found than the Briggs Ranch. It is suited as well to the poor as the rich. The poor man can, if not able to buy, always find land for rent at from \$2 to \$3 per acre or for one-fourth of the crop. If rich he can make a princely home, surrounding himself with the vegetation of the semitropics and all the comforts to be derived in any climate. Flax culture has been tested more thoroughly on the Briggs than on any other ranch in the county, and has paid those who have engaged in it well. Off of 300 acres this season one farmer realized as net profit \$1,500, or \$15 per acre. The success of those who early engaged in the semitropical fruit culture has induced others to follow; and now the Briggs Ranch has one of the largest orange orchards in the state, 100 acres, that of Clark, Blanchard & Bradley. On this ranch is the thriving village of Santa Paula, now containing about 200 inhabitants, a post office and blacksmith shop, two hotels, four stores and large public hall and a schoolhouse.

SANTA PAULA

The town of Santa Paula on the creek of that name, 18 miles from San Buenaventura and the sea, is yet a small village but has good prospects of making a town of considerable size. Its location is especially advantageous to parties whose lungs are weak. It is high and far enough from the sea to escape the rough coast winds. The soil in this vicinity for semitropical fruit culture cannot be excelled, as several orchards already growing and in bearing amply prove. Near this place is the young one hundred-acre orange orchard and nursery. Santa Paula, next to San Buenaventura, has the best schoolhouse in the county. Land is held at from \$25 to \$50 per acre. Town lots very reasonable to parties who want to build. There is plenty of water for irrigating purposes, and fuel in abundance and cheap.

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IN

SOUTHERN

CALIFORNIA

Santa Paula THE Items Ventura 1872, 1873,

Good News

Yesterday evening E. B. Higgins informed us that he had sold his entire interest in the Santa Paula y Saticoy Rancho to E. L. Bradley, Esq. of Placer County. This of itself would be no good news as the community is in nowise anxious to be rid of Mr. Higgins; but when he tells us that N. W. Blanchard and E. L. Bradley, two wealthy and energetic business men as they are known to be and now the sole owners of this splendid property, intend to at once erect a fine flouring mill on the estate, it is not only good but the best kind of news. Considerable wheat is now here ready for shipment, not a bushel of which should be permitted to leave the county. All concerned are to be congratulated on this final prospect of making our own breadstuffs. September 28, 1872

On the Way

Mr. Blanchard of the firm of Blanchard & Bradley is here awaiting the arrival of material for the construction of their proposed flouring mill on the Santa Paula. Upon its arrival the work will be promptly dispatched. November 30, 1872

Marine

A large amount of machinery was received by the Kalamazoo for Bradley & Blanchard's new flouring mill on the Santa Paula. Mr. Blanchard informs us that they will soon be in running order. February 1, 1873

* * *

The new mill on the Santa Paula will be in running order within a few days. March 15, 1873

* * *

SIGNAL.

County, California

1874, 1875 & 1876 . . .

A Turbine

Blanchard & Bradley of the Santa Paula Flouring Mills have finally received from Chicago their long-looked-for turbine wheel. It was landed here Tuesday from the steamer Constantine and at once forwarded to the mill. The Messrs. B. & B. have on hand a large supply of wheat, and will probably be ready to convert it into flour within the month.

April 5, 1873

The Santa Paula Flour Mills

The people of Ventura County will be rejoiced to hear that the new flouring mills on the Santa Paula are now in active work, and making a first class article of merchantable flour. Wednesday we received a note from Messrs. Blanchard & Bradley, an extract from which reads as follows:

Please accept with our compliments, a barrel of flour of Ventura's growth and manufacture. With no mishaps we now expect to be able to supply the home demand for the 'staff of life'.

We assure Messrs. Blanchard & Bradley, the enterprising pioneer mill men of this section, that the gift is appreciated through other than self-interest. The flour has been tested by our own and the families of others, and pronounced an excellent article. The Messrs. B. & B. have now done their share to save the County of Ventura many thousands of dollars annually. Will her merchants and consumers do their part?

As soon as health permits, we will be pleased to tell our readers what a fine three-story mill they have, with its power-working turbine propelled by a large stream that falls 110 feet. Read their ad.

May 17, 1873

SANTA PAULA FLOUR MILLS

Are now prepared to supply
THE ENTIRE BREADSTUFF
Of Ventura County.

Flour Warranted.

FLOUR, GRAHAM, Middlings,
Bran and Shorts; Corn Meal and
Ground Feed supplied to merchants at
lower rates than they can ship from
San Francisco.

DAIRYMENS' attention is especially
called to the following: The Bran and
Shorts, on account of the newness of
the burrs and the absence of a bran
duster, are very rich in flour and mid-
dlings, and are offered very cheap.

Blanchard & Bradley.

VALLEY NURSERY, Santa Paula.

5,000 Blue Gum Trees.

5,000 Languedoc Almonds.

Fruit, Shade and Ornamental Trees.

Warranted as Represented

A. GRAY, Proprietor.

11141tf

D. B. CLARK'S NURSERIES, SANTA BARBARA, CAL.

Semi-Tropical

AND

TEMPERATE CLIMATE

Fruit, Shade and Ornamental

**TREES,
SHRUBS AND
PLANTS.**

The choicest stock in Southern Cal-
ifornia.

ORANGE, LEMON,
LIME, LOQUAT,
GUAVA, PALMS,
ETC., ETC., ETC.

DANA B. CLARK, Proprietor.
11134-3m

What Is Going On Around Us

N. W. Blanchard, Esq. of the Santa Paula Mills informs us that the supply of water in the Santa Paula is increasing, and that next week he will commence to supply this market with his celebrated brands of flour. The manufacture of this mill is pronounced by good judges to be far superior to any flour ever sold in this market. September 27, 1873

Mr. D. B. Clark of the Santa Barbara semitropical and temperate climate nurseries has a new advertisement this week.

A new town has been laid off on the Santa Paula Creek.
It will be called Santa Paula. December 6, 1873

Mr. Sewell of the Santa Paula is putting out 12,000 gum
trees. January 3, 1874

Mr. Gray of the valley nursery, Santa Paula, has the
finest stock of fruit, shade and ornamental trees in the coun-
ty. Read his advertisement.

Mr. Dana B. Clark of Montecito was in town during the
week with some very fine samples of trees, among them some
Sicily lemon, Norfolk Island Pine, india rubber, guava and
orange. All the trees were in fine condition. The prices
are as low as such trees can be bought for in this market.
Mr. C., in thus producing such beautiful trees at moderate
prices, proves himself a public benefactor. We hope our
citizens generally will secure trees and get them to growing
at once. January 24, 1874

We notice Dana B. Clark, the nurseryman from the
Montecito near Santa Barbara, is in town today with another
shipment of those fine orange and lemon trees. Mr. Clark
is enthusiastic in his profession and is really doing a good
thing for the country in introducing so many new fruits and
ornamental plants. February 7, 1874

Mr. N. W. Blanchard of Santa Paula, with that com-
mendable enterprise for which he is famous, contemplates
putting out a large orange orchard on his ranch on the Santa
Paula Creek. He will have an abundant supply of water for
irrigating purposes, and a well protected spot for his orchard.
Mr. Dana B. Clark of Montecito will put out the orchard.
We have no doubt but that in ten years oranges will be
plucked from Mr. B's orchard. Mr. Blanchard has set an ex-
ample which we hope will be followed by many.

February 14, 1874

Santa Paula extra flour, seven dollars and twenty-five
cents per barrel, at Chaffee & McKeeby's.

There is no more desirable place to locate in Southern
California than on the Santa Paula Creek. The climate is
unexcelled, and it is far enough inland to be out of the
reach of the ocean winds. The soil is fine and the scenery
beautiful. We shall expect that at no distant day the little,
unpretentious village of Santa Paula will be an important

town. It has many advantages not possessed by neighboring towns. February 21, 1874

We are glad to see that nearly all our merchants keep Santa Paula mills flour exclusively. That is right, patronize home institutions, especially when they furnish as good an article as can be got abroad. There is nearly always a rush at the popular store of Chaffee & McKeeby, but the past week it was greater than usual. The cause is they keep the best of goods of all kinds and sell them at reasonable figures. February 28, 1874

The planting out of the big orange orchard in the Santa Paula Valley has attracted much attention to that delightful section of country, and many are already talking of trying to get homes there. The little town of Santa Paula has a bright future, and it will not be many years before the great anticipations of its citizens will be realized.

Many parties, we are glad to learn, are profiting by the example of Messrs. Clark and Blanchard & Bradley and are settling out orange orchards.

Mr. Dana B. Clark arrived on Monday last with 40,000 young orange trees, enroute for Santa Paula Valley, where he will set them out during the week on the ranch of Blanchard & Bradley. He will also plant out a few banana and pineapple trees on the same ranch. Mr. C. has traveled considerably through Mexico and southern California and has lived near Santa Barbara for several years, where his nursery now is; and he is satisfied that anywhere in the Santa Clara Valley the orange can be grown successfully. He has, we think, shown good judgment in selecting the Santa Paula Valley for the orchard in which he will have a half interest with Messrs. Blanchard & Bradley. March 7, 1874

N. W. Blanchard of the Santa Paula mill has gone to San Diego to make some sales of feed. We hope in the fall, such rates can be obtained as will enable him to ship great quantities of flour. It will be of great advantage to us to ship our grain in the shape of flour rather than in the grain. There is no good reason why any of our wheat should go through San Francisco before coming to us in flour.

A petition is in circulation here to establish a daily mail route between this place and Lyon's Station via Camulos,

SANTA PAULA Flour Mills

are prepared to supply the

Entire Breadstuff

OF VENTURA COUNTY.

ALL THE FLOUR BEARING THE name of the Mills as above, or our firm name is

Guaranteed to be 1st Class

The *SECOND GRADE* or *SUPER-FINE* is branded "Santa Clara Valley Mills."

Flour, Graham, Middlings, Bran, Cornmeal, Buckwheat, Grits, Ground Feed, etc., constantly on hand, and furnished at lower rates than can be supplied from San Francisco.
iv5tf BLANCHARD & BRADLEY.

A Card to the Public

March 14, 1874

Learning that some evil minded persons are distorting and falsifying the facts in regard to the brands of flour of the Santa Paula mills and its business, we submit through your paper for the public enlightenment, the following: we make, as all good mills do, two or more grades of flour; all flour bearing our name and the name of the mills (Santa Paula) we guarantee; and for the very purpose that the community should not either mistake or be imposed upon, we made an entirely different brand for our second grade or superfine flour, viz. Santa Clara Valley Mills, leaving off our firm name.

We took great pains from the start to erect a first-class mill and secure a competent miller, and in consequence have the

satisfaction of knowing that we make an excellent article of flour. Some three months ago in making a change of water wheel the miller broke his leg; and his son, without experience in California wheat, made some flour, although good yet not strictly first-class, which we regretted very much. We regret that any one should decry so great a manifest and generally acknowledged public good to this county as the only flour mill in it, doing only first-class work and its business upon the strictest impartiality and custom work at usual rates in the state.

Thanking the business men and public for past favors and with a purpose to merit a continuance, we respectfully remain.
Blanchard & Bradley

Our Water Power

J. Richardson & Son were the first to demonstrate that our water power could be utilized in manufacturing purposes. Their pipes are now in; and with an eighth of an inch of water they are enabled to run their wheels with sufficient velocity and force to do heavy turning on a large lathe. Soon they will have their jig saw set, and will in various ways use the power. It is surprising that so small a stream of water will drive the water wheel with such velocity. Since seeing the success of Messrs. Richardsons we are more than ever impressed with the fact that our manufacturing facilities in this place are unexcelled; and in a few years we hope to see the vast flood of water which now goes to waste in the waste ditch from

the reservoir husbanded and utilized in various manufactories. Ventura is the place above all others for manufactories and mills of all kinds to be erected; and efforts should be put forth by our business men to so advertise our advantages that those desiring to engage in such enterprises may be induced to come here. March 21, 1874

Notice

May 16, 1874

The undersigned are determined to sell flour at a lower rate, and a better article than that of your Santa Paula flour; and we guarantee a better satisfaction. The brand is San Jose Vineyard Baker's Extra, and we will sell the same at 25 cts. per barrel less than the Santa Paula brand. If our flour does not prove better than the above, we will return the money to the purchaser. Call and try it, and you will find out it is so.

H. Marks & Co.

Support Home Enterprise

June 27, 1874

Editor *Signal*: In your issue of the 13th is an editorial upon "Our water power" in which the opportunities and need of manufacturing enterprises are dwelt upon as desirable to build up the town and county. In all of which every intelligent and good citizen will concur. But what encouragement does the experience of the only flour mill in the county offer? A year and a half ago a first-class flour mill was built and hailed as a very desirable and commendable enterprise. Why should it not be still? Now a portion of the community are very active

in their endeavor to destroy the success of the enterprise. Not content to simply withhold their patronage, but unscrupulous in their attempt to injure the business of the mill and prejudice the minds of the people of the county against the mill or its owners. Why? The question naturally follows. Is not the mill a benefit to the county? Is it not worthy of patronage and worthy of success even? Are its dealings not honest and fair? Is the flour not good? Are its proprietors in every sense not good citizens? And is such treatment inviting to other manufacturing enterprise? Must it, after taking the chances of success, incur envy and detraction of any part of the county? A more enlightened, just and wise policy would be to try to sustain on all sides all home products where they can be had at equal cost and quality; and thus encourage and invite manufacturing enterprise, and keep as much of your own wealth at home as possible. One result of the flour mill we have is that flour is sold cheaper than in either of our adjoining counties, and cheaper than it otherwise would be. Justitia

Answer to Justitia

July 4, 1874

Editor *Signal*: The question is asked by a correspondent last week if it is not a benefit to the county to have flour mills? It surely is when properly conducted by a business man. It is also said that persons are trying to injure the mill, and even the reputation of the proprietor. It is not necessary to try to run the proprietor down when he asks

the question if he is not a good citizen. If he is a good citizen, it is not his fault as the law compels him to be one. He also asks if he has not dealt fairly with all men? I answer no! Emphatically no! Some have paid \$7.50 per barrel for flour and others have only paid \$6.50 for the same grade, all delivered on the same day. What benefit is the mill to the consumers when they can get better foreign flour at a lower rate, and at the same time not get any more for their wheat than if they would ship it to San Francisco? When the mill started, all patronized it; but when some found out that discriminations were made by the proprietors in favor of certain parties, they withdrew, and they think justly, their patronage.

The Flour Controversy

July 11, 1874

Editor *Signal*: In your last weeks issue, some one makes several false statements concerning the business of the Santa Paula Flour Mills. Statements the writer know to be false; or what is to the same purpose, statements not known to be true. Were it not that the farmers may, to some extent, be led to believe the writer if no answer was made, I would not condescend to answer one whom "the law compels to be a good citizen", not honest even in public statements.

First, as to the charge of discriminating or selling flour upon the same day to one merchant at \$7.50 per barrel, to another at \$6.50. Last year when flour was sold at \$6, Mr. Einstein of

Einstein & Brenheim wished to contract for flour for the coming winter; which we offered to do at \$6.50 per barrel, but he had not the business sagacity to accept the offer. The same day we informed Messrs. Chaffee & McKeeby of the proposition of Mr. Einstein & Bernheim, and they at once engaged one hundred barrels and would have willing to have engaged two or three hundred barrels. Most will remember how rapidly flour and wheat advanced last fall. Flour rose from \$6 to \$7.50 when we were filling the contract of one hundred barrels at \$6.50. This "discrimination, unfair dealing" has been retailed by one or two houses of Ventura *ad nauseam*. dishonestly keeping back the facts.

Again, the writer asks "what benefit is the mill to the consumer when they can get better foreign flour at a lower rate, and at the same time not get any more for their wheat than if they would ship it to San Francisco?" Here again both a falsehood and an attempt to prejudice are made. The fact that we furnish probably four-fifths of the flour used in the county is sufficient answer that a better foreign flour cannot be had at a lower rate. Now, that the mill will not pay any more for wheat than it is worth to ship it to San Francisco, is a very puerile argument against the mill. Will the merchant pay any more for any produce than it is worth? Can butter, eggs, barley or corn be sold for any more than they are worth to ship?

N. W. Blanchard

Santa Paula and Saticoy. It should be generally signed. This is an important route and one much needed. Col. Goodwin has interested himself in the matter, and will push it vigorously.

March 21, 1874

Orange Culture

Mr. Evans, in his excellent article on orange culture in the *Overland*, says:

Experience alone, derived from further experiment, can teach how extensive is the area of land in the state that is adapted to it. The experiments that are being made are successfully removing many of the prejudices and fallacies entertained by its pioneers. Another error cherished by them, besides those already enumerated, which seems destined to be exploded is that the orange tree will not bear fruit anywhere on the seacoast. The theory is evidently based upon experiments made at Santa Barbara where trees have matured yet have borne but little fruit. Their barrenness has been attributed to the effects of the sea air. Fortunately there are other points on the seaboard where the experiment has been tried with successful results. On the grounds of General P. Banning at Wilmington, exposed to the full force of the sea breeze, there are a number of tree seven or eight years old that bear fruit notwithstanding that no pains have been taken in their culture. Jotham Bixby has a productive grove near Wilmington, and situated within about six miles of the line of foaming surf. At San Diego in gardens within a stone's throw from the waters of the bay and not over three-quarters of a mile from the broad ocean, orange trees planted less than five years ago are growing vigorously and promise to bear abundantly in a year or two. Perhaps the failure of the experiments at Santa Barbara can be traced to other causes than that of the mere presence of ocean atmosphere: to the northwesterly winds which not infrequently during the budding season sweep through that otherwise delightful gorge-like valley, effectually preventing the development and maturity of the blossom.

The above we believe is a correct explanation of the failure to grow the orange successfully at Santa Barbara. Our observation teaches us that the orange groves should be sheltered from the northwest winds. The high range of hills and mountains on the north of our valley completely cut us off from those winds. Mr. Clark of Santa Barbara has acted wisely in selecting the Santa Clara Valley for his large orange orchard.

March 28, 1874

Local Brevities

The ball at Santa Paula in behalf of Frank Blakesly was a grand success. The proceeds netted about \$80. Mr.

NOTICE

IS HEREBY GIVEN TO THE tax-payers of the Santa Clara School District that the special tax recently assessed for building a school house is now due and payable till the 14th day of May, to the undersigned. All remaining unpaid after the above date will be placed in the hands of the County Attorney for collection.

ALEX. GRAY,
Collector Santa Paula School Dist.
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NOTICE.

PROPOSALS for building in the town of Santa Paula, a school house 26x40 feet, as per specifications to be seen at the store of Chaffee & McKeeby, in Ventura, or at Pond's hotel in Santa Paula, will be received at either the above places, or by the Board of Trustees until Saturday, July 6, 1874.

J. A. BARKER,
N. W. BLANCHARD } Trustees.

Blakesly has been compelled to submit to amputation of his leg. The operation was skillfully performed by Dr. Bard, assisted by Dr. Freeman of Santa Barbara and Dr. S. P. Guiberson. He is doing as well as could be expected. April 11, 1874

Chaffee & McKeeby are determined to keep the price of flour down to the very lowest notch. They are now selling Santa Paula Mills Extra Family Flour at \$6.75 per barrel; and they say that they will return to any purchaser his money if the flour is not number one. These gentlemen have great faith in our home-manufactured flour; and should a purchaser by accident get hold of a bad sack of flour, they will make it good to him. April 25, 1874

Blanchard & Bradley have reduced the price of bran to \$15 per ton at their mills in Santa Paula.

Messrs. Blanchard and Clark have put 500 pounds of poisoned potatoes in their young orange orchard for gophers.

Mr. Dana B. Clark has had remarkable success in transplanting his young orange trees. He has lost scarcely any in the large lot of 10,000. May 16, 1874

Messrs. Daly & Rodgers have a house in Santa Paula for sale or rent.

Proposals for building a school house at Santa Paula are advertised this week. May 30, 1874

A Thriving Village and Happy People

May 23, 1874

Editor *Signal*: I have been very negligent about my promise; but will be more punctual henceforth, and let you know what is going on in this burg. Our Good Templar's lodge is working a miracle here, and added a large number at their last meeting. I see by your last week's paper that you did not mention your humble servant as being past

For Sale or Rent.

A LARGE ONE AND A HALF story building, new, situated in the flourishing town of Santa Paula. Suitable for a store and dwelling house. Apply to **DALY & RODGERS,** 1462t

NEW STORE AT SANTA PAULA

WILEY BROTHERS,

HAVING ESTABLISHED A store at the above place, are prepared to supply their customers with an endless variety of goods in the line of

GROCERIES, PROVISIONS,

GENTS FURNISHING GOODS,

as cheaply as they can be bought in San Francisco—this is no idle boast—an invitation is extended to one and all to

Come and Prove It.

11152tf

WILEY BROTHERS.

SANTA PAULA NURSERY.

ANY PERSON WITHIN THE LIMITS of Ventura County wishing to put out

Oranges,
Lemons,
Limes,
Walnuts,
Almonds,
Apples,
Pears,
Peaches,
Apricots,
Plums,
Etc., etc.

ANY KIND OF SHRUBBERY,

Will do well to call on

Warham Easley,
At Santa Paula.

He has Orange trees from
2 to 3 feet high, at 20 cents each;
3 to 3½ feet high, at 25 cents each;
Lemons from
3 to 4 feet high, at 20 cents each;
4½ to 5½ feet high, 25 cents each;
Limes from 2 to 3 feet high with a great many branches, just the trees for hedge. All other varieties not above named are at the very lowest prices.

EASLEY IS AN OLD NURSEYMAN. During his stay in Sonoma he took from fairs held in that county three premiums as the best horticulturist. All orders promptly filled, and satisfaction guaranteed.

87-2m **WARHAM EASLEY.**

worthy chief. There is one store in this place, Wiley Bros., which is carried on in commendable style, and deserves the patronage of all classes. There are two blacksmith shops here, and seem to be doing a lively business: one is under the control of E. L. Jones, and the other by old A. Jack Harrington. There are also two hotels here; but when we want a good square meal, we call on Mrs. Dodson for a better meal cannot be had in the county. Harvesting will commence Monday. The crops are better this season than I have even seen them within the last eleven years. Mr. Blanchard's mill is in full blast turning out first-class flour. Mr. Blakesly is improving rapidly under the careful treatment of Dr. Bard. After this, I will keep you posted in regard to this place.

Respectfully, H.

A Trip to the Country

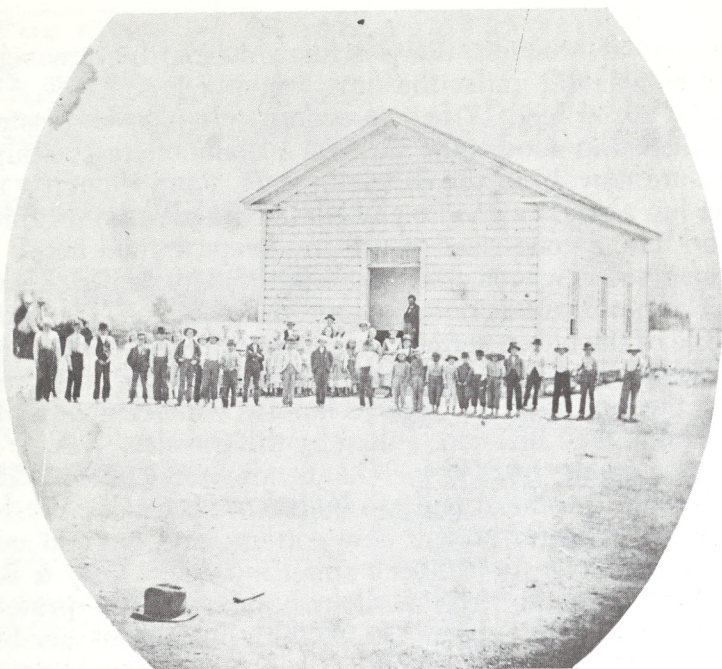
On Friday last . . . with a lead pencil in hand, found myself in the town of Santa Paula taking notes, not promissory notes. Here I found several new buildings and others

in process of erection, the best of which is the new school house being built under the supervision of J. A. Shaw. The house is 26x40 feet, 12 feet to ceiling. It is to be plastered and finished in good style, and will accommodate 100 pupils. There are now 49 in the district. J. H. Pond though a new comer has already a good many comforts and some shrubbery around him, a good-sized house and keeps a good hotel. E. S. Jones has a wagon and blacksmith shop across the way from the hotel, and is doing a good business. A. J. Harrington, one of the oldest settlers in Ventura County, is also doing a good business in the same line. Jesse Dodson, on the west side of the barranca, also keeps a hotel at which a good square meal and a good bed can be had by the traveler. J. A. Wiley & Brother are the leading merchants now in the place. They stick close to business, and are bound to succeed. Warham Easley has recently built a new cottage, and has put out a number of orange trees and a small nursery. Daly & Rodgers own a large and commodious building on the principal thoroughfare, now unoccupied, suitable for almost any business. Major Gordon is the oldest and first settler of the village. He has for several years kept a small store, some dry and some wet goods. What he will do after the deluge we did not learn. Blanchard & Bradley are building an immense granary and warehouse near the mill.

The locality of Santa Paula is excellent and it therefore must in the future grow to be a large town. It is in the heart of the best part of the Santa Paula Valley, and not far from the upper Ojai. The country surrounding is well watered and timbered; the soil is reported by experts as better than any other in the county for the semitropical fruits.

Mr. Dana B. Clark, of Santa Barbara and Blanchard & Bradley have in their 100-acre orange orchard proved by their works their entire faith in the climate, the soil and the water facilities. Messrs. Haines, Todd, Gray and others have already in their orchards proved that all kinds of semitropical fruits can be grown with perfect success.

The scenery from this place is grand and beautiful, the game abundant: the quails and rabbits are almost domesticated; a person could bag all he would want with a pocket full of rocks. The air is balmy and dry, much more so than



Santa Paula Schoolhouse

on the coast. I expect the day will come soon, when Santa Paula will be a city of considerable importance. Its future does not depend upon a railroad; but when the railroad is built, then will its future success be insured. . .

Neighborhood News

A postoffice has been established at Santa Paula with J. H. Pond as postmaster. July 11, 1874

Blanchard & Bradley made their first shipment of flour on the Senator. The flour is made of our own wheat and cannot be excelled in the San Francisco market.

Dr. Isbell is engaged by the citizens of Santa Paula to carry the mail between that place and San Buenaventura. He will also carry passengers and small packages.

August 15, 1874

Alex Gray, Esq. of Santa Paula sent us in during the week a box of peaches and nectarines which, for flavor and beauty, we have not seen excelled anywhere. Mr. Gray has not irrigated his trees, and we think the flavor of the fruit is

much finer than that grown on irrigated trees. He writes us that the fruit sent us grew on trees twenty-eight months from the dormant bud. The trees average throughout the orchard from 40 to 50 pounds of fruit. The orchard is on high valley land and about 15 miles from the sea. Mr. Gray has one of the best orchards and nurseries in the county, and is doing much in a quiet way to develop the fruit growing interests of the county.

August 29, 1874

A camp meeting was held near Santa Paula during the week.

September 12, 1874

Mr. Pond is building an addition to his hotel at Santa Paula. We hope he may add still more room so that he may accommodate invalids who are looking for a pleasant, mild and equable climate.

While at Santa Paula last Sunday, we had the pleasure of visiting the Santa Paula Sabbath School held in the new schoolhouse, a handsome redwood building, hard-finished throughout and furnished with desks of the most approved pattern. The building is large, airy and light, and the citizens may well feel proud of it. On each Sunday the children of the neighborhood and many grown persons meet and enjoy Sabbath School services. Mr. N. W. Blanchard is the superintendent, and is assisted by a zealous corps of teachers. At the close of the school on each alternate Sunday, Mr. G. G. Sewell's choir of singers furnish to those who remain most excellent music. There is some good talent and fine voices in the class. We could not fail to notice the entire absence of that clearing of the throat and the 'a-hems', indispensable preludes to every song by choirs in the Arctic regions. The Sunday School is in a flourishing condition, though only quite recently established. Those gentlemen and ladies who sustain it, prove that they are as fully alive to the social and moral interests of the community as to those material interests which they have done so much to advance.

November 7, 1874

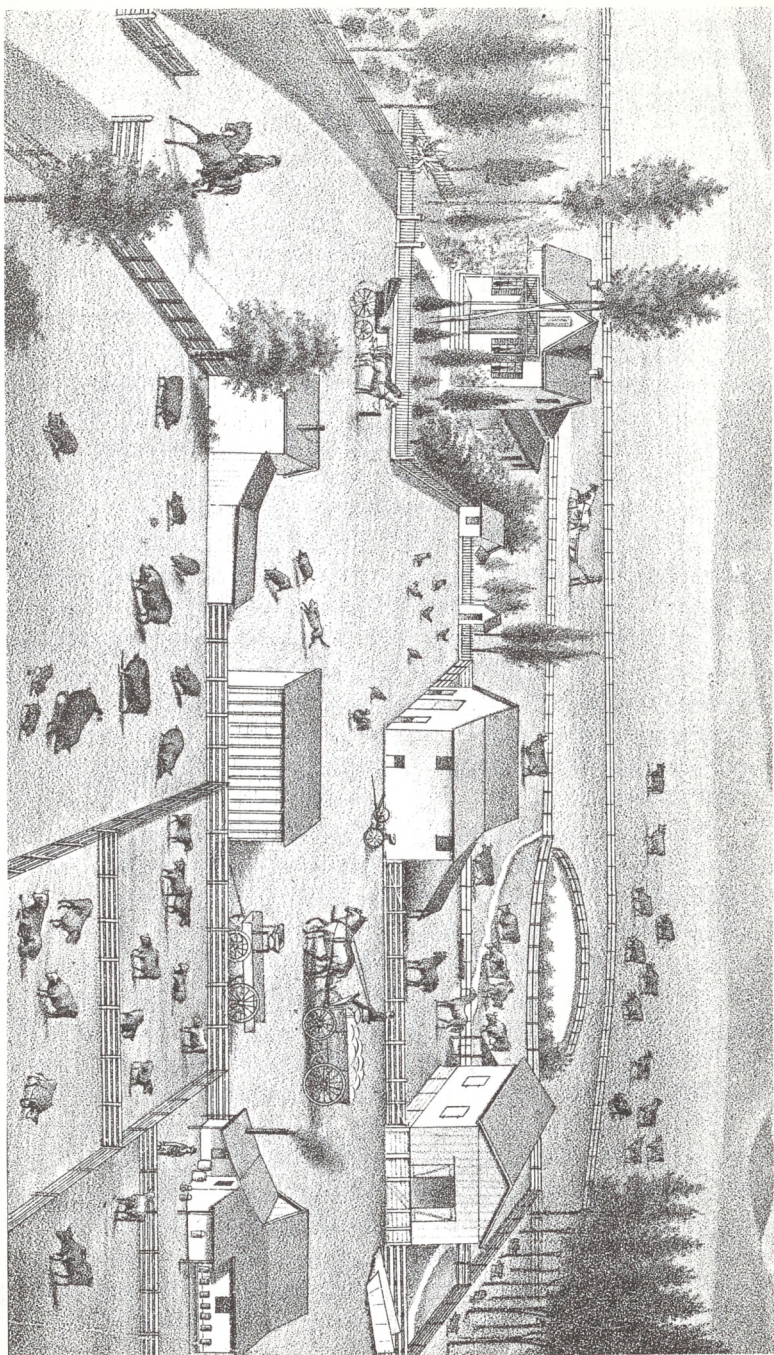
A Trip To Santa Paula

With good roads and a pleasant breeze from the land side, a trip to the valley and through it is a pleasant one. It was our good fortune to have both one day last week when we left for a visit to Santa Paula. The road cannot be ex-

celled; it is an easy grade, and good time can be made over it as there are no rocks or steep hills. By noon we reached our objective point, the residence of G. G. Sewell, Esq. formerly the County Clerk of Placer County, who came here to find a home in a better climate and where he could have more smooth land in a body. He purchased the Wooley place, and has added many improvements. That our newcomers and readers generally may know what can be done in a short time, we give a brief description of his place.

His farm consists of 900 acres: 350 under fence divided into eight lots including orchard and grove of gum trees, around which is over seven miles of hog-tight board fence; about 100 acres are below the farmers' canal and water ditch; and 350 below the Santa Paula mill ditch, one-twentieth of which belongs with the farm and which affords sufficient water for all farm purposes. Mr. Sewell with two weeks' labor by a man and team made a reservoir 400 feet above his house and barn, which is about 125 feet across and of a mean depth of 8 feet and about 20 feet head from which water is brought to his house, farm, garden and orchard. The barn is 60x100, containing stable room for twelve horse with large granary inside; under the barn is a large cistern and pump. He has also another large cistern at the house, which was essential before the completion of the Santa Paula ditch. Mr. Sewell's dwelling is a comfortable one, and has the most slightly location of any in the neighborhood, being on the foothills several hundred feet above the valley land. The granary is quite large and substantially built; his corn-crib is 9x32 feet and full of corn; his work shops 12x14 feet; wagon sheds, buggy sheds, hen houses, etc. are all in good condition and conveniently arranged. The orchard contains 200 English walnut trees, 200 almond and a large number of apple, pear, peach, plum, apricot, nectarine and a few orange and lemon trees. The vineyard is not large but is filled with choice foreign varieties. On the west is a grove of eucalyptus trees, containing 5,000 trees to which will be added this winter 5,000 more. On the east a grove of 3,000 trees. Some of these trees are already more than 15 feet high though only planted last spring, then mere sprigs from the seed. Mr. S. has cut this year from his farm 150 tons of hay, threshed 3,000

RESIDENCE AND RANCH OF GEO. G. SEWELL, SANTA PAULA, VENTURA CO. CAL.



bushels of barley (the smaller portion of his crop for he fattened and turned off 220 head of hogs and is now keeping 500 head, one-half of which will be ready for the spring market). These hogs are now feeding in the barley field. He raised 50 acres of corn without irrigation, which yielded immensely. The stalks stand thickly on the ground, and a large proportion of them have two ears. The yield cannot certainly be less than 100 bushels to the acre, probably more. The orchard is on very high ground and is as thrifty as any on the lower ground and had no irrigation (affording another proof of the fact that trees can be successfully grown on even the high land by careful cultivation of the ground, without water, through the dry season). The improvements made on Mr. Sewell's place are such as almost any farmer in the valley can have. We would especially commend his reservoir to the attention of farmers at this end of the ditch. If each one had a reservoir, he could always have water; and if anything happened to the ditch, he need not be compelled to haul it . . . We understand that several parties near Santa Paula who have large ranches contemplate cutting them into small tracts for fruit farms and residences. The land below the ditch will probably range from \$35 to \$50 per acre in ten or twenty acre tracts.

November 7, 1874

Its Live Men—Business Prospects—Location, Etc.

January 12, 1875

Editor *Signal*: In all of your descriptive letters of Ventura County but little is said of our beautiful town and valley of Santa Paula which is destined to rank next in size to San Buenaventura. In calling your attention to the fact you perhaps are aware it is but eighteen miles from your beautiful city in an easterly direction, situated in one of the most delightful and healthy spots in southern California with wood and pure mountain water in abundance, which cannot be excelled in this county for manufacturing purposes. The day is not far distant when Santa Paula will rank among the most prominent places in California as a health resort and manufacturing village. Our town and valley is but in its infancy as yet. We have a few enterprising men here, such as D. B. Clark, Sewell, Easley, Gray, Greis, Todd and Blanchard who are determined not to be excelled as far as hor-

Certificate of Copartnership.

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, that we, Nathan W. Blanchard and Elisha L. Bradley, the former residing at Santa Paula, County of Ventura, and State of California, and the latter residing at San Jose, County of Santa Clara, and State aforesaid, do hereby certify and declare that we are engaged in flour-milling, sheep-raising, farming, and business incidental thereto, as copartners, under the firm name of Blanchard & Bradley; that the principal place of business of said copartnership is at Santa Paula, County of Ventura and State aforesaid; that the full names of all the members of such partnership are as above stated and signed hereto; and that such partnership will continue under said name and style until further notice.

In witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands this 28th day of April, 1875.

N. W. BLANCHARD.

E. L. BRADLEY.

Acknowledged before F. McCusker, Notary Public, Santa Clara county. 5-4t

Filed, endorsed, May 21, 1875.

JOHN T. STOW, County Clerk.
By L. F. EASTIN, Deputy.

DANA B. CLARK'S NURSERY TREES

ARE FOR SALE AT

J. A. SHAW'S,

IN VENTURA, OR AT HIS

Orange Orchard, Santa Paula.

Call and see them. 43tf

FOR EVERY VARIETY OF
first-class JOB PRINTING bring
your work to the SIGNAL OFFICE.

ticultural is concerned. We have two general merchandise stores here, kept by Wiley Brothers and J. Levi who are determined and do sell as cheap as your Mission merchants. Saloon and confectionery but one which cannot be excelled outside of San Buenaventura, our most worthy friends Rhodes & Gordon will be happy to wait on customers. The Santa Paula Hotel has been enlarged and refitted for the accommodation of the daily increase of health seeking guests, J. H. Pond, proprietor. One boot and shoe shop kept by H. Grawell; also, two blacksmith shops. Major Gordon is slowly but surely recovering under the care of J. E. Stone. The flour mill of Blanchard & Bradley is turning out first-class flour under the management of the new miller, Newell, late of San Francisco.

J. H. C. C. B.

What Is Going On Around Us

Dana B. Clark of the Montecito Nurseries has established an agency for the sale of his trees, etc. at this place with Mr. J. A. Shaw in charge. He also has them for sale at his Santa Paula orange orchard. See advertisement.

February 13, 1875

Mr. Grawell, formerly of Indiana, has bought a lot in Santa Paula and is building a good house, the best in town. He will also start a boot and shoe shop and store.

March 27, 1875

We noticed Mr. E. Skaggs, the foreman in Dana B. Clark's orange orchard at Santa Paula, passing through town

(Copy of)

BLANCHARD^{9d} BRADLEY

Proprietors

“(Surveyed Nov. 1873)”

(Ed. T. Hare Co. Surveyor)

Scale 400 ft to 1 inch



Record at
At 2.F.



P.F.



today with another load of those orange and lemon trees for planting at that place. He says that now is the time to plant orange and lemon trees. April 17, 1875

We understand a second spelling match is to come off at the Santa Paula Schoolhouse on Saturday evening, May 15th when two valuable prizes will be awarded to the best spellers. Lessons from letters A and B in Webster's *High school dictionary*. Parties from neighboring districts are invited to attend and contend for the prizes. Children under four years of age are requested to wait till the next match. May 8, 1875

Oranges in Ventura County

Dana B. Clark's 100-acre orange orchard in the Santa Clara Valley near Santa Paula is being well cultivated and now makes a fine appearance, telling strangers what language cannot convey. Mr. Clark traveled extensively before selecting the land for his orchard, and it is a great recommendation to our county that he has selected in it a location for the outlay of so much money in so large an orchard. Through his efforts our county has been made to rank next to Los Angeles in number of orange trees planted out. There is no doubt that the lands near the orchard of Mr. Clark, which can now be purchased for \$50 per acre, will if planted in orange orchards of a reasonable size bring ten times that amount per acre in five years.

Mr. Henry Shaw, a newcomer, has had great success in growing young orange trees. He is a hard worker and by care in the selection of his seed and in the preparation of his land has already made, if he should sell his trees now, not less than \$1,500 though he has been here but a little over a year. May 22, 1875

Local Brevities

Mr. Dana B. Clark, the proprietor of the 100-acre orange orchard near Santa Paula, passed through here on Sunday last with 700 more trees to be used in filling in and for hedges. He informed us that he has a Mandarin orange tree, two years old from the bud, upon which there are several oranges. June 19, 1875

Mr. J. G. Corey writes us from Santa Paula that the rainfall last week was .05 of an inch.

HAY FOR SALE CHEAP.

Barley and Wheat Hay, baled, @ \$10 per ton.

Alfalfa Hay, baled, @ \$9 per ton.

At Santa Paula.

47 BLANCHARD & BRADLEY.

Rams for Sale.

THE UNDERSIGNED

have two hundred American or Spanish Merino Rams, selected from the well-known stock of Flint, Bixby & Co.

For sale at their place in Santa Paula.

July 3, 1875.

11-1m BLANCHARD & BRADLEY.



The celebration next Saturday at Santa Paula promises to be a great success. Preparations are made to entertain an immense crowd. Dinner will be served under the oaks after the oration.

June 26, 1875

Blanchard & Bradley have for sale a large number of thoroughbred Spanish merino rams.

July 3, 1875

John Scott has nearly completed his store room, and will soon fill it with a well selected stock of goods.

Charley Scranton has built a fine dancing and musical hall at Santa Paula. He will open with a grand ball next Friday evening.

July 24, 1875

Our friend Alex Gray of Santa Paula, one of our most successful fruit growers, sent us in a sample of fruit from a seedling plum tree, the seed of which he planted five years ago. It has fruited three years, and the present will not yield less than 150 pounds. The plum when ripe is sweet and rich, much resembling the Damson but perhaps not quite as large. We hope Mr. Gray will propagate this variety and generally introduce it to our fruit-growers. A specimen of the fruit may be seen at this office.

August 7, 1875

J. F. Cummings of Santa Paula has sold his fine farm in Sutter County for \$7,000. He will invest his money in this county. He thinks there is no place where he can put it to a better advantage.

August 28, 1875

Santa Paula, though a Democratic precinct, gave Fawcett a majority of 36. Nearly a full vote was polled.

October 23, 1875

Mr. Ellsworth's artesian well, now being bored near Santa Paula, is 150 feet deep. The men engaged in boring drilled through five boulders: the largest of which was twenty feet thick, the others ranging from one to five feet; all of them sand-stone. There is now 100 feet of water in the well, pure and free from any unpleasant taste or odor.

November 6, 1875



J. K. Gries

John Gries of Warrensburg, brother of J. K. Gries of Santa Paula, with his family have found a new home in this county. We should be glad to know there were a dozen such brothers on the way. The name is a good one.

November 13, 1875

We understand that Dana B. Clark has purchased another piece of land adjoining his orchard at Santa Paula for the purpose of enlarging his nursery at that place. We hope that the people of this county will give Mr. Clark such a welcome in the shape of patronage the coming season that he will be induced to make his permanent home among us. He is now planting blue gum trees at that place, and has

PIONEER NURSERY.

ESTABLISHED 1838.

I HAVE NOW FOR SALE AT THE PIONEER Nursery, near

SANTA PAULA,

A large stock of

FRUIT AND ORNAMENTAL

TREES.

APPLES A SPECIALTY.

Apples—5000 one-year old, from five to six feet high, choice varieties.....12½¢

English walnuts, one year..... 6 ¢

Plum—Gray's seedling, choicest in the market.....50 ¢

Peppers—one to two feet high..... 2½¢

ORDERS LEFT WITH

J. A. SHAW,

at Ventura,

Or at the nursery, will receive prompt attention.

My trees are "A 1" in every respect, and true to name. ALEX. GRAY.

CHRISTMAS BALL.

A GRAND BALL WILL BE GIVEN AT

Scranton Hall,

SANTA PAULA,

CHRISTMAS EVE.

General invitation is extended to all.

Tickets, including supper, \$3.

No pains will be spared to make the evening one of pleasure.
34-2w CHARLES B. SCRANTON.

SANTA PAULA CARDS.

S. P. GUIBERSON,

Notary Public and Conveyancer,
Santa Paula.

All kinds of instruments of writing drawn with neatness and dispatch. 9.4f

already contracted with several parties to furnish the plants by the thousand in the seed boxes. November 20, 1875

Sheriff Stone will be at Santa Paula on Friday, December 3rd for the purpose of receiving taxes. November 27, 1875

A grand ball will be given at Scranton Hall, Santa Paula on Christmas eve. We know the manager of it to be a gentleman who knows just how to do it, and we have no doubt a large crowd of merrymakers will be in attendance. December 11, 1875

The tree selling business has fairly begun. Dana B. Clark, Alexander Gray, Henry Shaw and J. A. Shaw are in the market with a fine assortment of trees. Buy good trees of reliable nurserymen from as near home as possible and plant and care for them and in a few years they will take care of you.

The town of Santa Paula is rapidly building up, and in a few years will be a place of no little importance. There are three dry goods stores, two hotels, two blacksmith shops, one saloon, furniture store, butcher shop, boot and shoe shop and town hall. Dr. Guiberson is building a room in which to start a drug store which will be completed by the 1st of January.

December 25, 1875

J. Wiley has sold his stock of goods together with the house and lot and will immediately build a new store room, where he will establish a Santa Paula C.O.D. store.

There is some talk of presenting a bill to the legislature for the incorporation of Santa Paula.

January 8, 1876

The citizens of Santa Paula are making preparations to raise the liberty pole which was presented to the town of Santa Paula some time ago by Saxby, Walton & Preble. They propose putting a top to it, of about thirty feet, making it the tallest liberty pole in the county.

There will be a concert given next Saturday night at the schoolhouse by the Santa Paula Glee Club under the supervision of Mr. and Mrs. Sewell.

We are informed that there is shortly to be a Grange organized at Santa Paula to be followed by the erection of a large hall.

John Scott, the popular merchant, is doing a lively trade in his line and numbers among his customers the best people of this section.

January 15, 1876

Doctor Guiberson is building a house in Santa Paula.

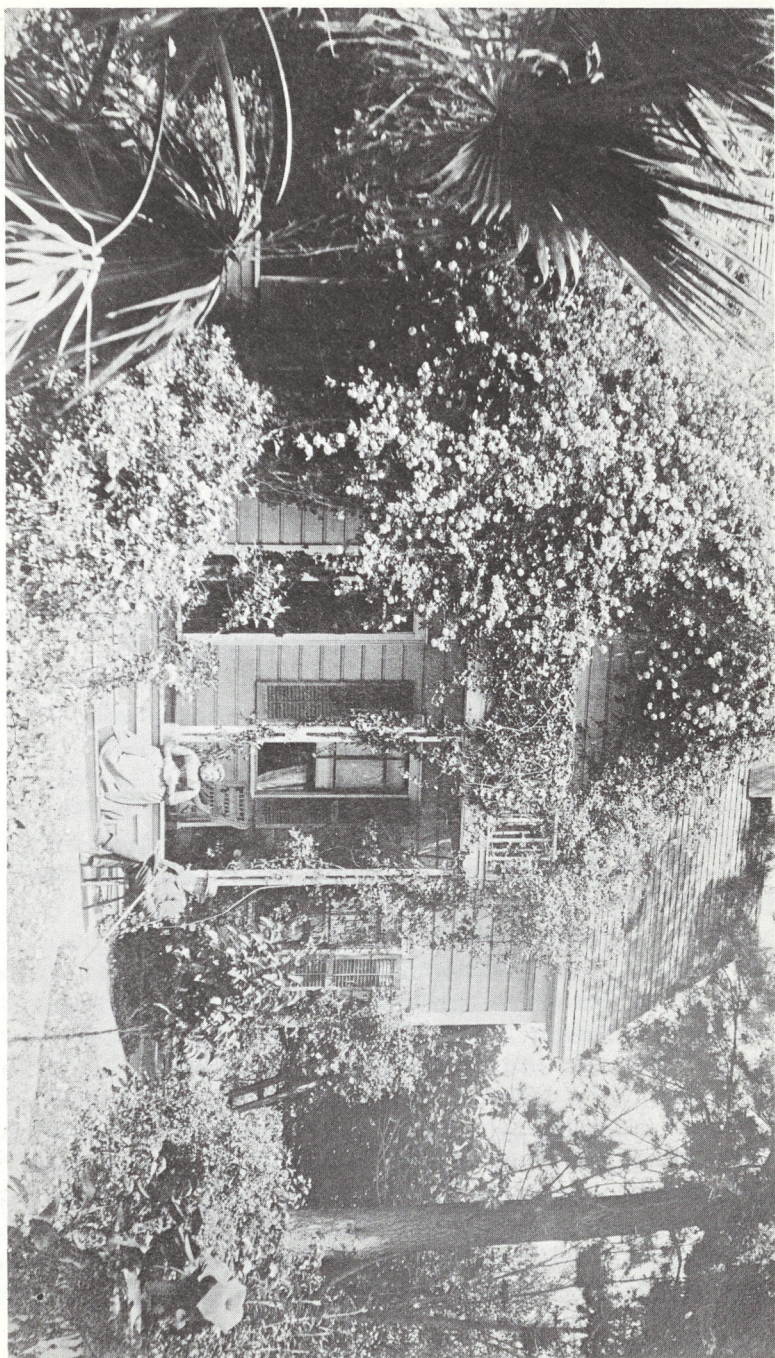
Mr. McMillan is preparing to build a livery stable.

A barber shop is being erected on Main street.

Jim Ayers has purchased a lot, and will immediately put up a fine billiard saloon.

Mr. Dana B. Clark has carefully pruned his orange trees, and his extensive orchard begins to loom up with flattering prospects. It is no longer looked upon as an experiment whether this locality is adapted to orange culture, for the healthy state of his trees demonstrates that they will flourish as well here as in Los Angeles. The cold weather so far this season has not injured them in the least.

Dr. Dodson, the proprietor of the Park Hotel (and by the way, where one can get more than a square meal) talks of



Eliza and George C. Sewell

erecting a large hotel building, his present house being entirely too small for the business he is doing. The doctor is an old hand at the business, and knows what it requires to run a first class house.

Lots are selling here all the way from fifty to three hundred dollars.

January 22, 1876

Last Friday night the snow fell low down on the hills on both sides of the valley, and during the afternoon Saturday it fell about four inches deep just above the mill.

Mr. Blanchard will donate to the town a block to be used as a public park which will be fenced and set out in evergreens and other shrubbery this season.

Mr. Dodson has sold his place adjoining town, one half of it to Mr. Skinner, a gentleman recently from Iowa, who will erect a fine dwelling upon the same during the season; the other half including his dwelling to Mr. Parsons and Mr. Varney, the gentleman that runs Blanchard's mill. They are both bachelors; but from prospects, they mean business shortly.

January 29, 1876

Santa Clara Valley Oranges

Dana B. Clark, the enthusiastic and enterprising orchardist of Montecito, brought down one day last week two large branches from an orange tree which grew at the Camulos during the last nine years from the seed. On one of the branches, not exceeding a foot in length, were thirteen large sweet oranges, as fine and large as ever grew in any country. The other branch about the same length had seventeen on, fully as large and well developed. Mr. Clark has engaged a branch from the same tree upon which are one hundred of the same quality, which he will ship in sawdust to Santa Barbara to be there exhibited to show that Ventura is an orange producing county. Mr. Clark has long been convinced that the soil and climate of the Santa Clara Valley was peculiarly adapted to semitropical fruit culture, and he has proved his faith by his works. He has now growing the largest orange orchard in southern California, one hundred acres. His neighbors, profiting by his successful experiment, are planting this year thousands of orange, lime and lemon trees. The time is not far distant when every acre of land in the Santa Clara Valley fifteen miles from the sea will

Homesteads !


AT BARGAINS.

In Reach of All!

RIGGEN & BROOKS,

DEALERS IN

REAL ESTATE,

160 ACRES OF LAND NEAR THE 
Town of Santa Paula, house with four rooms, good barn and outhouses, 14 acres now under cultivation. Possession given immediately. Will sell several stands of bees with the ranch. Those wishing a home at low figures have a chance.

100 ACRES ON THE SANTA CLARA
river about six miles from Ventura, at a bargain; fine corn and barley land; will be sold cheap and on easy terms.

THE NICHOLS TRACT,

(BRIGGS RANCH)

Of 932 Acres, 4 Miles East of Ventura, I now offer for Sale in

Quantities to Suit Purchasers

The Wyman & Co. **WATER DITCH** will pass through these lots and the lofty Eucalyptus trees and large cribs of corn on these premises

Tell the Productiveness of the Soil.

For easy terms call on
351f A. D. BARNARD, Agent.

400 ACRES OF LAND ON THE SANTA CLARA river, 6 miles from Ventura, well fenced, finely watered, besides having two wind-mills, two dwelling houses and out-buildings, and fine orchard. Apply to
RIGGEN & BROOKS.

20 ACRES OF LAND FOR SALE ON the Briggs Ranch, below the Santa Clara water ditch, at a great sacrifice. Apply to
RIGGEN & BROOKS.

We have in addition to the above, a large list of real and personal property advertised on our bulletin-board, to which we invite especial attention. **RIGGEN & BROOKS.**

be held at orange land prices, away up! If you want a few acres near Santa Paula, the heart of the orange growing region, secure them while you can do so at fair prices.

February 5, 1876

Santa Paula's Business Men

Santa Paula now takes rank as the second town in the county, and at her present rate of growth is keeping pace with Ventura. New buildings are going up on every hand, and they are all of a substantial character. Several citizens of Ventura have recently invested there, among whom we may mention the Ayers brothers, Mr. Squires and Dr. S. P. Guiberson. Each of these parties have built and are building neat business houses. James and John Ayers will occupy their building when completed as a billiard hall and barber shop. The building erected by Mr. Squires is already occupied as a harness shop, and is presided over by Mr. Butch-

SANTA PAULA CARDS.
N. J. IRELAND & SON,
Carpenters and Builders,
 North Side Main Street, Santa Paula.

ALL BUSINESS IN OUR LINE AT-
 tended to promptly, and satisfaction
 guaranteed.

Santa Paula Hotel

L. S. SNUFFIN, Proprietor.

South Side Main Street, Santa Paula.

THE PROPRIETOR HAS REMOD-
 eled and greatly improved this ex-
 cellent house, and respectfully solicits the
 patronage of the public. Terms reasonable.

JOHN SCOTT,

DEALER IN

GENERAL MERCHANDISE

SANTA PAULA, CAL.

KEEPS CONSTANTLY ON HAND A
 first-class stock of goods in his line,
 which includes everything ordinarily used in
 the family.

MY GOODS ARE NEW,

Were Purchased for CASH, and I am thereby
 enabled to sell at the Lowest Cash Rates.

Please Give Me a Call.

JOHN SCOTT.

CHAS. SCRANTON,



BLACKSMITH AND WAGONMAKER,

SANTA PAULA, CAL.

ALL WORK IN MY LINE CONTRACT-
 ed for at the lowest cash rates, and only
 turned out in a workmanlike manner. A good
 supply of

Hardwood, Etc.,

always on hand, which enables me to do re-
 pairing promptly. My establishment is sup-
 plied with all the modern improvements.

CHARLES SCRANTON.

A. LEVY,

DEALER IN

General Merchandise,

South Side Main Street,

SANTA PAULA.

OUR SHELVES ARE KEPT FILLED
 with a choice stock of goods in our line, which
 are purchased expressly for us by a careful
 buyer in San Francisco for cash, and we are
 thus enabled to sell goods at prices that defy
 competition.

Highest market price paid for produce.
 A. LEVY.

R. BUTCHER,

MANUFACTURER AND DEALER IN

SADDLES, HARNESS,

AND HORSE-CLOTHING.

Main Street, - - - Santa Paula.

BEING THOROUGHLY PRACTICAL IN
 every branch of the business I think I
 can safely ask a share of the public patronage.
 Please give me a call and examine my work.
 Repairing promptly done.

J. A. LUGER,

DEALER IN

FURNITURE AND BEDDING,

Main Street, Santa Paula, Cal.

I MANUFACTURE FURNITURE
 of all kinds, and of the very best
 material, and keep constantly on
 hand a good stock to select from.

Particular attention given to repairing and
 renovating old furniture.

CENTENNIAL SALOON

And Billiard Hall.

AYERS BROTHERS, Proprietors.

JAS. AYERS.

JOHN AYERS.

THE "CENTENNIAL" WILL ALWAYS
 be supplied with the choicest wines and
 liquors, cigars, etc., and the public will find
 the appointments of the establishment first
 class in every respect.

North Side Main St, Santa Paula.

E. S. Jones, INSURANCE AGENT,

Represents the

*California Farmers' Mutual, (Fire) &
Cal. Farmers' Benefit Ass'n, (Life).*

ALSO AGENT FOR

**Enright's Strawberry Engine,
SANTA PAULA, CAL.**

PARSONS & HARBARD,

DEALERS IN

MEATS, VEGETABLES, FRUITS

Main Street, South Side, Santa Paula.

WE DESIRE TO CALL attention to the fact that we have fitted up a first-class depot for the sale of meats and vegetables, and fruits in their season, and propose to always keep a fresh supply of these commodities on hand.



PURE LEAF LARD,

of our own manufacture, always on hand.

"THE PIONEER."

Wm. A. Gordon,

DEALER IN

WINES, LIQUORS, CIGARS,

Tobacco, Fruits, Nuts,

Canned Goods,

And a good assortment of

Staple & Fancy Groceries



Embracing everything to be found in a similar stock. I respectfully solicit a share of

the patronage of the public.

THE PIONEER SAMPLE ROOM

Is supplied with the best brands of

WINES, LIQUORS, AND CIGARS,

Including the Camulos vintage, and the guests of the house will find it a quiet and pleasant retreat.

WM. A. GORDON,

Santa Paula

No better evidence of the growth and prosperity of Santa Paula can be cited than the business cards to be found in this paper. At the head is the card of N. J. Ireland & Son who announce that they are prepared to build houses and finish them in good style. That of L. S. Snuffin comes next. He has purchased the Santa Paula Hotel, and will hereafter entertain guests at that popular resort. John Scott is a fixture in Santa Paula; he deals in general merchandise, and has first-class goods as low as they can be bought elsewhere. Chas. Scranton is the popular blacksmith and wagon maker. His shop is supplied with all the modern improvements; and he will do work as well as it can be done anywhere. A. Levy is a merchant of rare experience and sells goods at prices defying competition. He pays the highest cash price for produce of all kinds. R. Butcher, furnishes the good people with harness, saddles and horse clothing. Mr. J. A. Luger will manufacture furniture and bedding of all kinds. The Centennial Saloon and Billiard Hall is a well kept institution by the Ayers Bros. E. S. Jones, insurance agent, represents good companies and will write a policy at fair rates. Parsons & Harbard deal in meats, vegetables and fruits and keep a good supply always on hand. W. A. Gordon's Pioneer grocery store is first-class in its appointments. He keeps only the finest staple and fancy groceries, and a large stock of Camulos wines and fruits. His sample rooms are orderly and quiet.

March 11, 1876



Dr. S. P. Guiberson

er, a thorough workman. Mr. Butcher informs us that his trade has opened quite brisk. The building being erected by Dr. Guiberson is designed for a dwelling house and drug store, and will be fitted up in good style.

McMillan & Snuffin, the liverymen, keep a first class livery and feed stable. They are both large hearted men and no stock leaves the house half fed. February 26, 1876

What's Going On Around Us

J. Wiley's new store building is rapidly progressing, and will be the finest storeroom in town.

E. S. Jones has opened a blacksmith and wagon shop, and will immediately go to 'The City' to purchase material.

The school trustees of Santa Paula School District have employed Professor Buckman to teach the ensuing term.

Snuffin & McMillan have opened their livery stable, and are now ready for business.

The water company will shortly lay pipes and bring water in town from the crystal Mupa.

The late rains did considerable damage to the Santa Clara Canal. The flume west of Clark's orange orchard was washed out. About four inches of rain fell.

John Ayers has gone to 'The City' to purchase material for the Centennial Saloon, the building being ready for occupancy. March 18, 1876

Billy Gordon of the Pioneer has received a new pigeon-hole table; and the balls have been kept hot with almost constant playing since the table arrived. April 15, 1876

R. Butcher of Santa Paula will build a residence soon. He is expecting his family from the east.

N. J. Ireland, Santa Paula's ingenious carpenter, has just finished Dr. Guiberson's drug store and has made for it the neatest front in town.

Prof. Buckman has upwards of one hundred scholars, and is well liked by all the patrons of the district. He urges the citizens here to build an addition to the schoolhouse and establish a graded school.

Morris Cohn of Saticoy has rented the storeroom formerly occupied by Levy and is filling it up with a large stock of dry goods and groceries, etc. He will run a regular dry goods, grocery and clothing store.

The people of our town are quite elated over the prospect of having water brought into the place in pipes. N. W. Blanchard has ordered the pipes and work is being rapidly pushed forward and will be completed in a few days.

Richard Tanner will open up a stock of stationery, school books, notions, etc. in the Santa Paula Drug Store the 1st of May. April 2, 1876

J. A. Luger has gone to San Francisco to lay in a stock of furniture.

Snuffin, the proprietor of the Santa Paula Hotel, has opened up a stationery, cigar and tobacco stand in the post-office.

Grand Opening OF COHN'S NEW STORE

AT SANTA PAULA.

We have just opened with a new stock of
GENERAL MERCHANDISE,

Consisting of

DRY-GOODS,
CLOTHING,
GROCERIES,
BOOTS & SHOES,
HARDWARE,
CROCKERY,
LIQUORS,
TOBACCO,
CIGARS,
HATS, etc.

And other goods too numerous to mention.
This well selected stock of goods we offer at
very low figures—much lower than
they were ever offered before.

We also desire to call the attention of the
public to the fact that we will be

Constantly Receiving Fresh Goods
from San Francisco.

JOHN SCOTT.

H. H. DOBBINS.

SCOTT & DOBBINS,
DEALERS IN
GENERAL MERCHANDISE

SANTA PAULA, CAL.

WE DESIRE TO CALL THE ATTEN-
tion of the public to the fact that we
are constantly receiving fresh goods from the
city, and buying for cash, are enabled to offer
them at greatly reduced prices. Our stock
embraces everything in the way of

Dry-Goods, Groceries, Notions, Etc.,

ordinarily used in the family, and are first
class in every respect. We also keep a good
assortment of

DRUGS & PATENT MEDICINES,

which are warranted pure and fresh. The
drugs are handled by an experienced drug-
gist. **SCOTT & DOBBINS.**

Our town can boast of a first class tonsorial artist in
Johnny Ayers; he is 'away up'.

C. B. Scranton has completed his large windmill, and
it is doing capital work. It is so arranged as to drive a turn-
ing lathe, a circular saw and other machinery. April 29, 1876

J. A. Luger has just returned from 'The City' with a large
stock of furniture.

The Santa Paula Water Company are laying pipes from
the reservoir near the mill into town.

The gardens of Warham Easley, on the south side of
Mupa Avenue, will shortly be a most pleasant florist and hor-
ticulturist, and has a choice variety of shrubbery and flow-
ering plants in his garden. May 13, 1876

J. H. Pond has the lumber on the ground for a hand-
some residence.

Mr. Blanchard is building a large reservoir for the Santa
Paula water works. The pipes are on the ground and ready
to be laid the entire length. May 20, 1876

Our town is occasionally infested with a band of ran-
tankerous hoodlums, which must be suppressed or they will
capture the place.

Mr. Samuel Scott is building a restaurant on the lot between Scott & Dobbins store and Parsons' meat shop. Most of the material is on the ground.

The repairing of the Santa Clara ditch has been completed from the head of the ditch several miles below the town.

Mr. E. E. Jones is building a dwelling house adjoining his blacksmith shop, and calculates to erect a larger building to be used as a wagon and carriage shop.

Mr. Stacey, recently of Washington, has opened up a grocery store in the new building of Wiley Bros., where will be kept a good assortment of groceries, which he proposes to sell cheap for cash.

A. J. Harrington has just finished digging a well where at 35 feet he obtained an abundance of excellent soft water. He will put a large force pump in it to be run by a windmill.

Cohn's new store is becoming the popular house to trade at in the place. His motto, as it appears on the flaming sign in front of his building is, "quick sales and small profits," and proves to be the plan of dealing.

The orchard of Alex Gray of Mupa Avenue is in capital condition, and his yield of fruit this season will far exceed what he expected.

The Santa Paula Water Company will be ready to deliver water soon, and it is hoped that the people of the town will encourage the enterprise by taking water of the company, as water delivered at our doors in pipes will contribute more to build up the town than any other enterprise that might be located here.

June 3, 1876

Bill Gordon is having a well dug on his place.

E. S. Jones will move into his new house on Main Street this week.

Mr. Scott's new restaurant is fast verging on completion under the skillful hands of Lightner & Golding.

Mr. R. Butcher's family arrived in Santa Paula on the 5th from the east. Mr. Butcher does not look like the same man.

Water pipes are being laid on Main Street.

Messrs. Smith & Dodds have just finished the painting of Mr. Snuffin's fine hotel.

June 10, 1876

INDUCEMENTS TO THE HOMESEAKER

This brings us into pleasantly situated and wide-awake little town of Santa Paula. It seems hardly fair to particularize where the farms are all of such excellent character; but if there is in all southern California a finer strip of country than lies between Santa Paula and say Todd's baranca, a distance of some $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles, we have not seen it. The Farmers' Canal and Water Company's Ditch, taken out of Santa Clara River $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles above Santa Paula, flows through the following splendid ranches: Blanchard & Bradley, Warham Easley, J. S. Barkla, Alex Gray, J. H. Pond, G. G. Sewell, J. H. McCutcheon, C. C. Ellsworth, Harold Bros., Abner Haines, A. Wooliver, Mr. Anderson, H. H. Dobbins, John F. Cummings, J. G. Tompkins and M. D. L. Todd. This company was organized in 1871; the ditch carries probably 400 inches of water and is about 8 miles in length, furnishing an abundance of water at all seasons. Below this there is another good ditch owned by and passing through the ranches of J. K. Gries, Blanchard & Bradley, John McKenna, A. Hedrick and Ed Todd, where it terminates.

The advantages and beauties of Santa Paula have been so often and ably set forth by correspondents. that there is but little left to be said on the subject. The town is delightfully located near the Santa Clara River, $15\frac{1}{4}$ miles distant from Ventura and is second in population to the latter place. It contains three stores (general merchandise) one drug store, one tinsmith shop, one jewelry store and gunsmith shop combined, one hotel, two saloons, barber shop, telegraph office, express office, postoffice, butcher shop, shoemaking shop, livery stable, harness shop and three blacksmith shops. Santa Paula may congratulate herself in having the very best hotel in southern California. Mr. C. N. Baker, the proprietor of the Santa Paula Hotel, attends to every want of his guests and has the happy faculty of making every one at home. Mr. John Scott, whom we knew in Kansas as a successful merchant, is here with a stock of goods. Messrs. Skinner & Dobbins are doing a rushing business; and M. Cohen, across the street, has a fine store and a large assortment of dry goods and general merchandise. He is also the agent of Wells, Fargo & Co.'s Express. Our genial

friend 'Billy' A. Gordon keeps an assortment of canned goods in addition to his Pioneer Sample Rooms. Johnny Ayers keeps a saloon and barber shop; G. L. Skinner, a genius in mechanical inventions, runs a jewelry and gunsmith shop; 'Uncle Sam' Harrington, Zach Hector and C. B. Scranton do the blacksmithing at their respective shops; Peralta & LaRue carry on butchering; J. M. Coffman keeps a drug store; here also is the office of our friend Dr. Guiberson who, in addition to the practice of medicine, carries on a real estate business and holds Justice's Court; F. M. Hall carries on a tinsmithing store, and R. Butcher a saddlery establishment; A. H. Shepard is telegraph operator, postmaster and insurance agent, at his variety store; O. P. Grawell keeps a shoemaking shop, and Peter McMillan a livery stable; Mr. Luger keeps a furniture shop. Mr. C. B. Scranton has just fitted up an establishment, boiler, planer and saws at his blacksmith shop for making beehives (he can make 200 hives a day and has a contract for 2000) he is also owner of Scranton Hall, 24x60 feet, used for balls, parties, etc.; his handsome place of two acres is highly improved, and abounds with flowers of many varieties, Monterey cypress and other ornamental shrubbery.

Blanchard & Bradley's flouring mills are situated on the north side of the town. These enterprising gentlemen deserve a great credit for their efforts in supplying the people with a first-class grade of flour. Their operations are on a large scale and they have expended large sums of money in and about the town. The flouring mill was built 6 years ago and has capacity of 50 barrels per day, four run of burrs: two for wheat; 1 for middlings; and one for barley and corn. They have a fine water power in a ditch taken out of the Santa Paula Creek two miles up, have had home market and sold to Los Angeles and Santa Barbara, the brand of flour known as the Patent Middlings Purified being much sought for in those towns. They have 1500 hogs and have sold 200 head. They slaughtered and cured 100 head as an experiment. So far it promises to be a success. If it is found that hogs may be converted into meat here at home, it will develop into a large business here in our county. They have a band of 2500 sheep, 300 of which are fine Merinos, one thoroughbred shorthorn Durham bull from San Jose.



Original orange grove

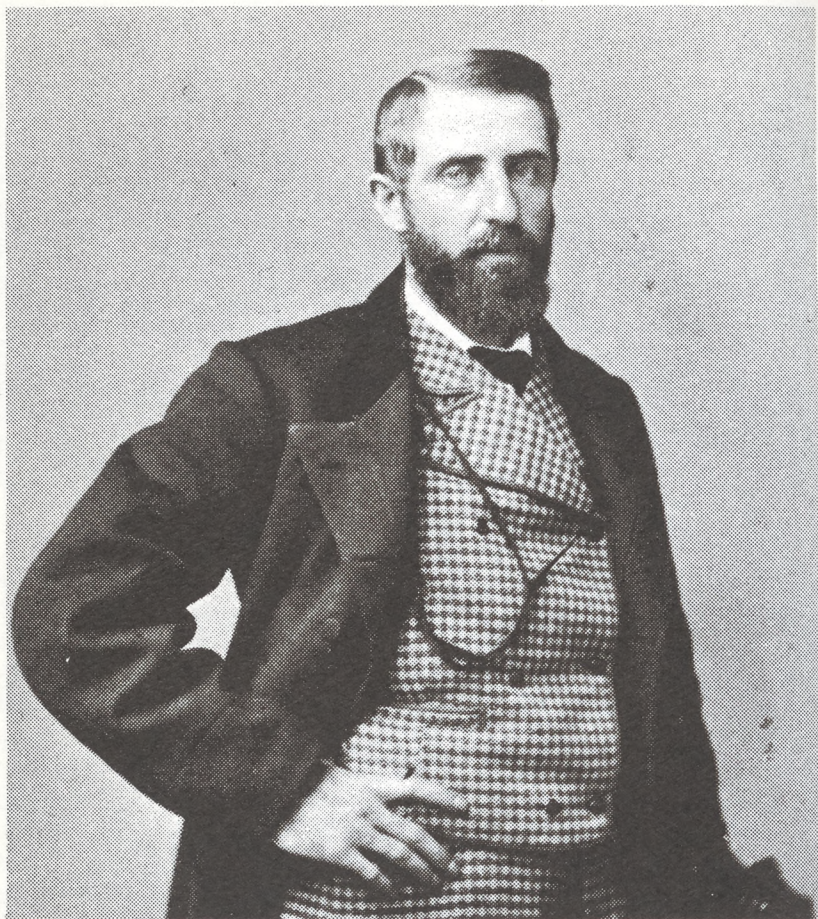
But the most interesting features of this place is their immense orange orchard of 100 acres. 6800 trees in the orchard, set out in 1874. Budded 1000 orange trees to choice varieties of orange and 1000 more to 3 varieties of orange and 1000 more to 3 varieties of lemons: the Lisbon; Thornley's sweet rind; and Eureka. Some of these trees grew from six to eight feet the past season. The orchard can be irrigated. On the front along the road, it is protected by hedge; on the west by a row of peppers, backed by blue-gums; a row of Monterey cypress through the centre, running north and south. Ten acres in Languedoc almonds, 4 to 7 years old, don't do well. Two acres in orchard beginning to bear, embraces a full variety of fruits. One-fourth of an acre of choice imported grapes. The ranch contains 2400 acres, 250 of which are in cultivation, exclusive of orchard, 175 acres of alfalfa. Mr. Blanchard laid out the town of Santa Paula about 4 years ago. West of his house is the reservoir which supplies the town with water. It has a width of 50 feet at the bottom, 90 feet at the top, and is 10 feet deep. There is a fall of 85 feet.

Mr. Blanchard's handsome residence stands back upon an elevation commanding a fine view of the village and surrounding country. The grounds slope southward, and are



Blanchard home

beautifully laid out. They are bordered on the east by a row of pepper trees. The grass plot is adorned by flowers and ornamental shrubbery, Norfolk Island pines, century plants, loquots, masses of roses in bud and in bloom, fan palms, oranges, lemons and guavas full of fruit, fountains and vine covered porch, all form a picture to be found nowhere but in southern California, especially in midwinter. A row of South Carolina poplars tower up on the west. Raised the



Nathan W. Blanchard

past season: 150 acres in barley, pastured off by hogs; cut 200 tons of hay; sixty-five acres in corn yielded 50 bushels per acre. The ranch has, in addition to fencing and cross-fencing, 3 miles of portable fencing. We omit a notice of barns, stables, outhouses, fine patches of strawberries, blackberries, etc. as our description grows long although we could find much more to say of this interesting place.

Strolling around the many handsome homes we drop into E. H. Orme's little place of 90x120 feet, and will show what can be done on a small place in the way of adornment.

Mr. Orme is a worker, and one can hardly realize that so much can be done in two and a half years. His neat rustic cottage is handsomely finished throughout and a picket fence encloses the lot. His lot contains Monterey cypress 4 years old as a hedge-row, orange hedge on the north six years old, a hedge of Sicily lemons on the west, and a lime hedge on the south. Fan palms, dracaenas, two date palms, several Italian cypress, loquats, India rubber trees, sweet limes, sweet rind lemons, figs, peaches, guavas in fruit, quinces, arbutus, oleanders, roses in bloom, geraniums, English ivies, lantanas, bridal wreath, spirea, nigalia roses, malva in bloom, Scotch heather in bloom, ivy geraniums clinging over the house, dwarf oranges full of fruit, blackberries, strawberries, raspberries, a pineapple tree, bananas, pears, apricots, plums, prunes, grapes, walnuts, almonds, butternuts, cherries, apples, Florida cane 20 feet high, China lemons full of fruit, pinks, lillies, lilacs, myrtle, etc., together with many varieties of fruits and flowers not mentioned. Raised all kinds of vegetables to supply the table and some for sale. Has a good chicken house and 50 hens. So much for thrift and energy.

Thos. Golding's handsome place of 240 feet front by 130 feet in depth joins Mr. Orme on the south. He has a handsome rustic house. A neat picket fence encloses the place. The grass plot in front is ornamented with orange, lemon and lime trees, and Italian and Monterey cypress. Roses climb over the house and a great variety of flowers are growing in the yard. An orchard of 74 trees, three years old, embraces a full variety of fruits, coming into bearing; had 8 bushels of peaches the past season. Raised a large crop of vegetables. Sold \$30 worth of potatoes. Rows of pepper trees on the west, south and east. The peach trees are beginning to bloom. Has 3 good hydrants and plenty of water can be distributed about the place. A good cellar for vegetables, milk and butter. Mr. Golding, being a carpenter and builder, is fixing up his neat place in a handsome manner.

The finest house in the town is the residence of L. Skinner, standing back a little from the road on the right as we pass up the street. The house is not yet finished; but it is a model of neatness and when time elapses for shrubbery to

grow, will be one of the handsomest places in the country. Mr. Skinner has excellent taste in laying out grounds to give a pleasing effect, and will not fall into the common error of overcrowding. The temptation in our climate, where almost everything grows so luxuriantly, is great to have full varieties of fruits and flowers at the expense of good taste. A neat lawn is sufficiently ornamented with shrubbery and flowers. There are ten acres in this place. An orchard of 1 acre contains a full variety of fruits 1 year old. Will shortly set out a hedge of American arbor vitae, which will be highly ornamental.

O. P. Grawell's beautiful place is nearly opposite Mr. Skinner's. It contains 2 acres, and with its mass of brilliant flowers contrasting with the golden-hued orange and lemon presents a sight worth seeing. It is a perpetual feast to the eye, and sweet-scented flowers charm the sense of smell. An orchard of 200 trees 4 years old embraces a full variety of fruits. His neat rustic dwelling stands back in an enclosure containing specimens of almost every variety of fruit and flowers found on this coast. Sweet rind lemons full of fruit, oranges, peaches budded to choice varieties bore four bushels first year, apricots bore first year from the bud. A variety of choice grapes three years old, plums, strawberries, Lawton blackberries, almonds, etc. The walk from the gate to the door is bordered by choice varieties of roses, lillies, and numerous other flowers, all in bloom. An avenue of Monterey and Italian cypress on the outside; weeping willow, canes from Florida, Sandwich Island lawn grass, and a row of pepper trees on the east; olives, three bananas 3 years old, cherries, etc. This place is 4 years old; but from the high state of cultivation and the extraordinary variety of fruits and flowers and the remarkable growth, one would take it to be twenty years old. Rows of roses all along the road; handsome picket fence and rows of pepper trees on east and west sides of the place. We have not mentioned the half of the interesting things to be seen here and our description conveys but a poor idea of the beauty of the place.

Eli Barbour's fine place joins Grawell on the north. One acre in orchard, 2 to 3 years old, represents a full variety of fruit. Australian pea vines in blossom climb over the porch

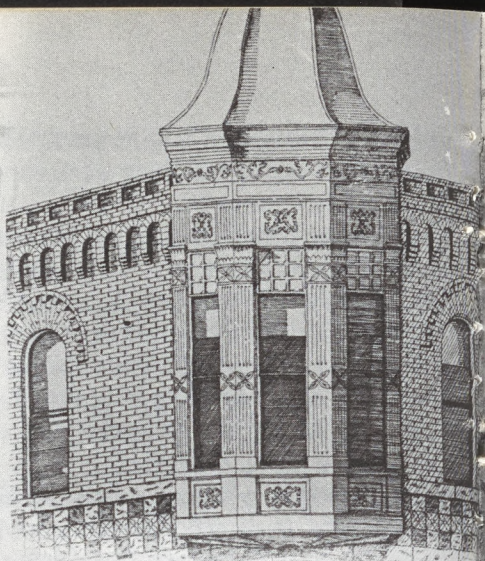
of his neat cottage. The yard, like all others in the town, is filled with almost every variety of flowers and ornamental shrubbery.

E. Ransom's charming little place of 1 acre, nearly opposite Mr. Skinner's, is one of the very best in this or any other town. His neat and comfortable cottage is adorned by many brilliant flowers, sweet scented vines and choice varieties of ornamental shrubbery. Along the street he has erected a very handsome picket fence which is also bordered by a row of Italian cypress. On the west a row of pepper trees serve as a windbreak, and add to the general effect. An orchard, two years old, contains a full variety of fruit. A 'full variety' in these descriptions includes every kind of fruit tree grown in the north temperate and semitropical latitudes. The orange, lemon, lime and guava grow side by side with the apple, peach and pear, and all seem to be equally at home. Mr. Ransom has been on this place but two years, yet such has been his thrift and industry that he has accomplished wonders. His fruit trees have about the best growth we have seen.

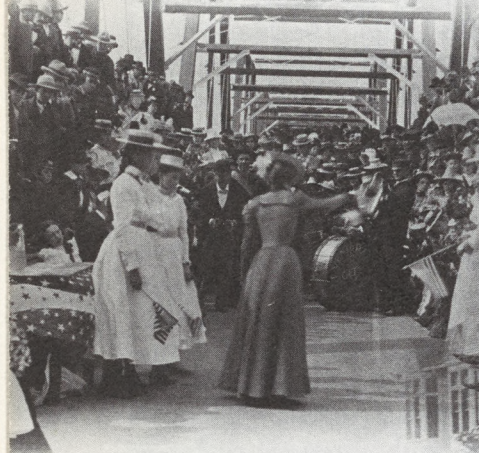
Close by is H. L. Atwood's handsome place of one acre. His neat cottage is surrounded by nearly all the fruits and flowers enumerated in the descriptions of the above places. Mr. Atwood will improve largely the present season. For want of room we are compelled to pass over with mere mention for the present a number of as fine places as those already described; among them is the highly ornamental residence of H. H. Dobbins, the merchant, Mr. Forbes, Mr. Varnner, Mr. Snuffin, A. W. Blumberg, P. Byers, Ben Granger, W. Beard, Capt. Roberts and others.

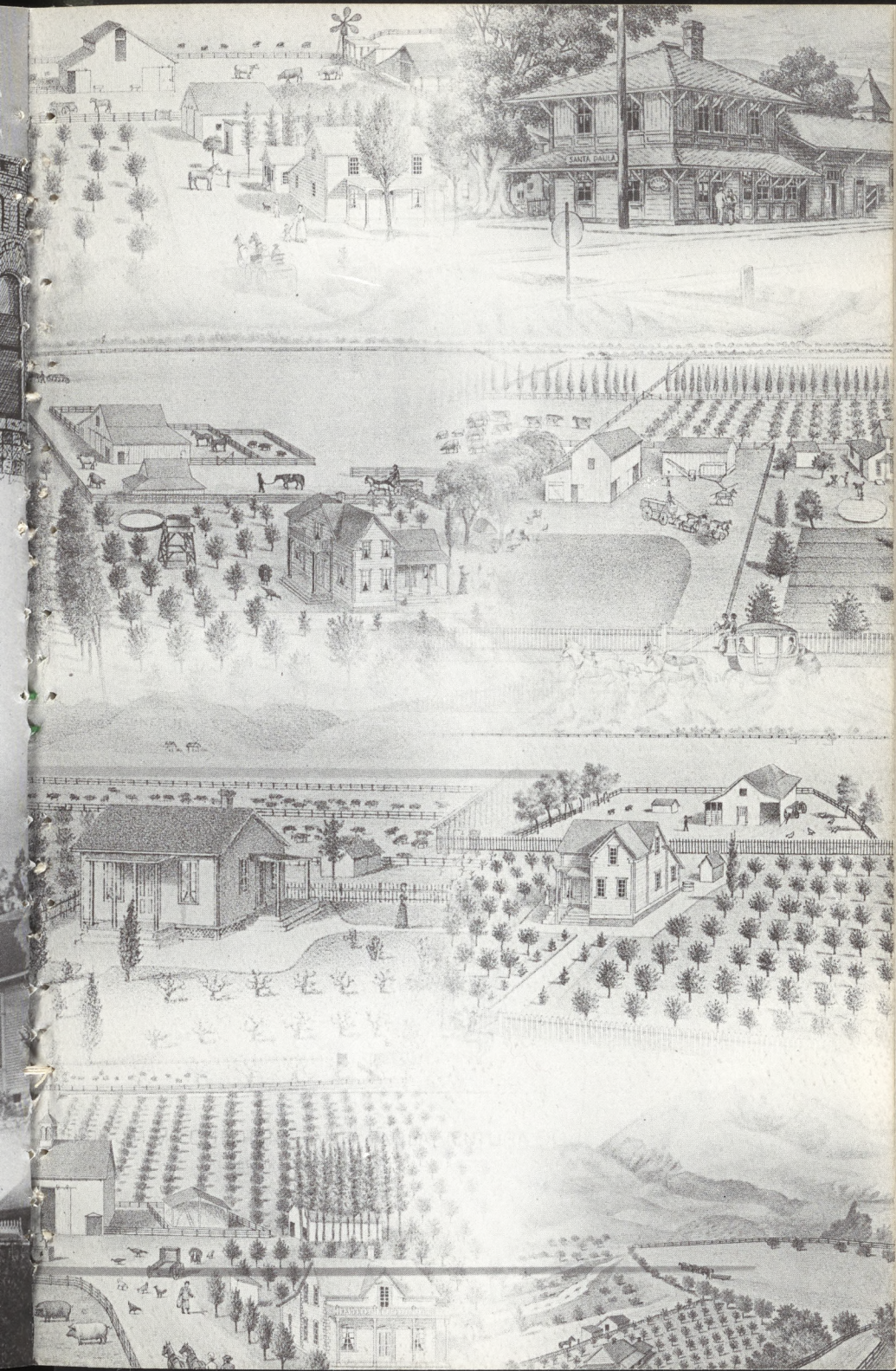
There is, as yet, no church edifice in Santa Paula; but they have a fine schoolhouse where divine services are held. This building is 40x60 feet, hard finished throughout and has all the modern furniture (patent seats and desks) and a good school library, including *Appleton's cyclopedia*. The average attendance is 70 pupils. Mr. Boor is the teacher. The Union Sunday School meets here, and is in a flourishing condition. The Presbyterians, Methodists, Baptists and Christians each have a minister and worship alternately at the schoolhouse.

February 1, 1879



Pictures have recorded the early progress of Santa Paula. The Union Oil Co. was organized in the room above the Oil Museum in 1890. Three years earlier the coming of the railroad left a depot beside the largest tree. There was a celebration about the new bridge across the Santa Clara River. And the orchards on the farms continued to grow.





Citrus Capital of the World

(formerly the Glen City)

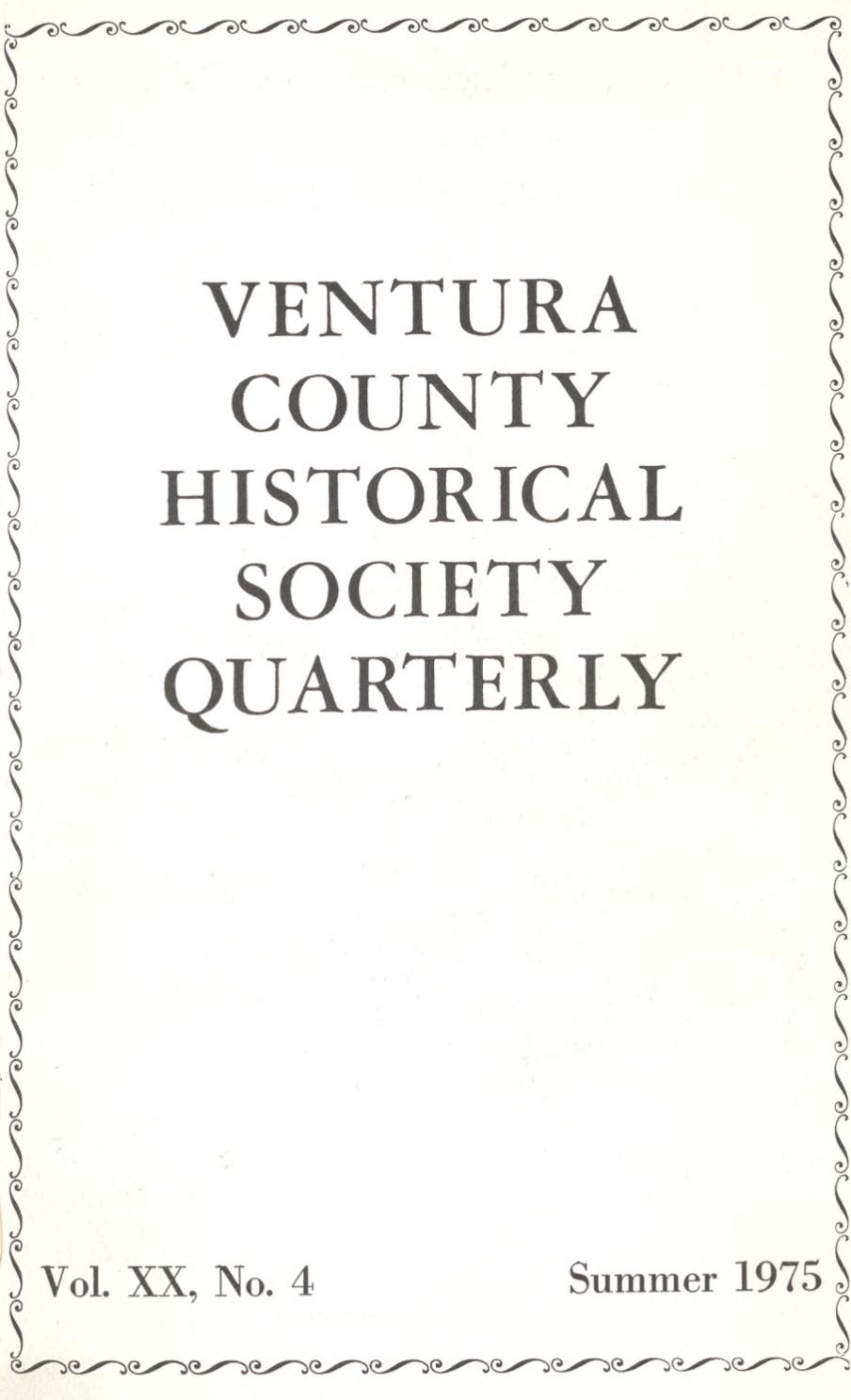
WHOSE COLORS ARE RED AND WHITE

and

WHOSE FLOWER IS THE PETUNIA



Courtesy Lumber City Advertising



VENTURA
COUNTY
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
QUARTERLY

Vol. XX, No. 4

Summer 1975

Ventura County Historical Society

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The Ventura County Historical Society's headquarters is the Pioneer Museum, 77 North California Street, Ventura, California. All communications should be addressed to the Society at the Pioneer Museum. There are three classes of membership: active, \$10.00 per year including husband and wife; sustaining, \$25 per year; and life, \$100. Memberships include subscription to the *Quarterly*.

The *Quarterly* is published from the Society's headquarters at the Pioneer Museum. The Society assumes no responsibility for the statements or opinions of authors of various articles. Grant W. Heil is Editor and the Staff includes Mrs. Naydean L. Baker, Duane L. Garber, Charles H. Heil, Ruth L. Heil, David W. Hill, Charles D. MacGregor, Charles F. Outland, Mrs. Johanna D. Overby, Thomas A. Roe and Richard D. Willett.

Five hundred fifty copies printed for the Ventura County Historical Society by Clark's Printing Co., Ventura, California. Additional copies are available at \$1.75 each.

In Memoriam

MELVIN WINFIELD SHEPPARD, JR.

1909-1975

Mel Sheppard was Secretary-Treasurer and Director of the Pioneer Museum 1973-1975, and was a member of the Board of Directors in 1974. He established the present legal and financial basis of the Society, and finalized its membership lists.

The Ventura County Historical Society *Quarterly*

Vol. XX, No. 4

Summer 1975

Grant W. Heil, Editor

Contents

A NEW COUNTY MUSEUM

From Interviews

Notice

The five year index is a second supplement to cover twenty years of publication. It was prepared by Ruth L. Heil.

The floor plans were redrawn by Charles D. MacGregor.



Carl Phleger

In Memoriam

CARL ALBERT PHLEGER

January 25, 1889 - April 25, 1975

Carl Phleger was a charter member of the Ventura County Historical Society, served on its Board of Directors for 17 years and was President 1962-1963. Most members remember Carl welcoming them to our meetings and being Chairman of the Nominating Committee. He also handled the finances of the 1972 Symposium of the Conference of California Historical Societies.

A NEW COUNTY MUSEUM

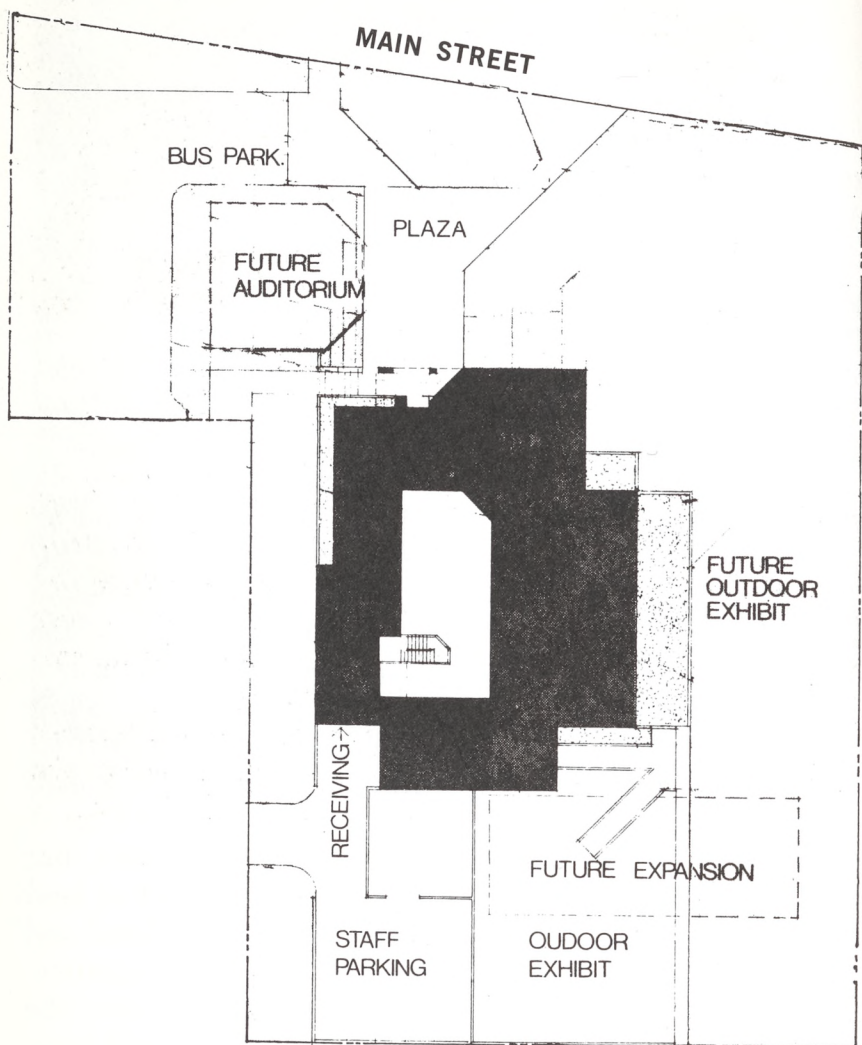
From Interviews

The dream of a new Ventura County museum remained alive in the mind of Elizabeth Hobson Hoffman. She often discussed the idea with Gird Percy, the Director of the Pioneer Museum; they went so far as to draw up preliminary plans. Mr. Percy had been quietly encouraging contributions for this purpose. Mrs. Hoffman decided that the best step she could make in advance was to purchase a lot near San Buenaventura Mission. After two real estate negotiations, she was able to secure one north of Main Street.

It was appropriate that when the Pioneer Museum Committee was formed her son, Walter Hoffman, should be named Chairman and her daughter, Katherine Haley, Financial Chairman. This organization was set up nearly sixty years after Ventura County first began operating the Pioneer Museum.* The roster of members listed people representative of the whole county and interested in an historical undertaking.

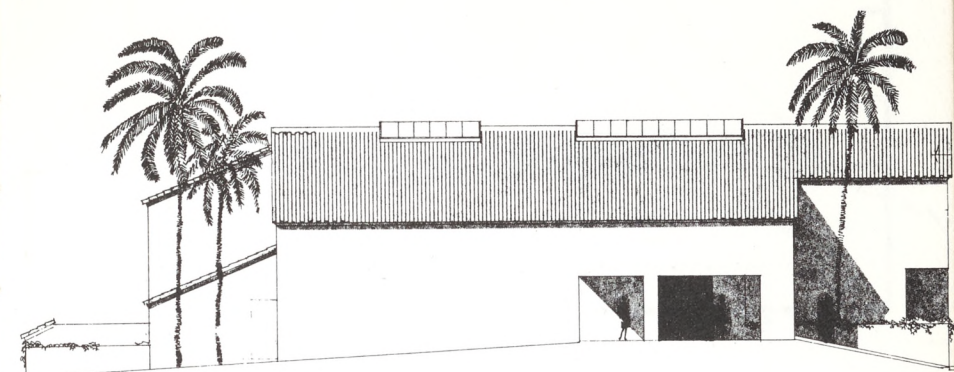
The first action necessary to be taken was the selection of a site. The original lot had been absorbed by the City of Ventura in the redevelopment of the downtown area, but its officials indicated they were in favor of a grant of land in the Mission Plaza. Three locations were considered and a decision was reached only after a thorough investigation. The final choice near Junipero was a fortunate one: the grounds of the old mission orchard, formerly located here, would be free of archeological remains; an entrance to the museum opposite Valdez Alley looks upon San Buenaventura's first street: and the slope of the land, from the grading of Main Street one hundred years before, allowed for a double level approach to the rear of the building.

*See "Your county museum" by J. H. Morrison; May 1957 (v. 2, #2, p. 13-16).



SITE

The money received from the sale of the lot had enlarged the museum fund enough to embark on a campaign. Publicity and other expenses of an effort to secure the support of the community could now be met. Above all an

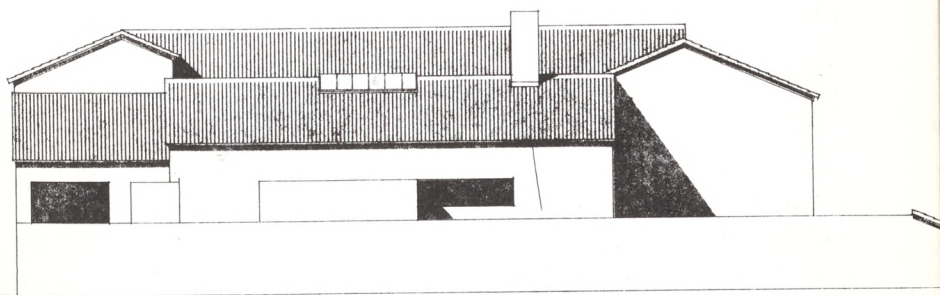


FRONT

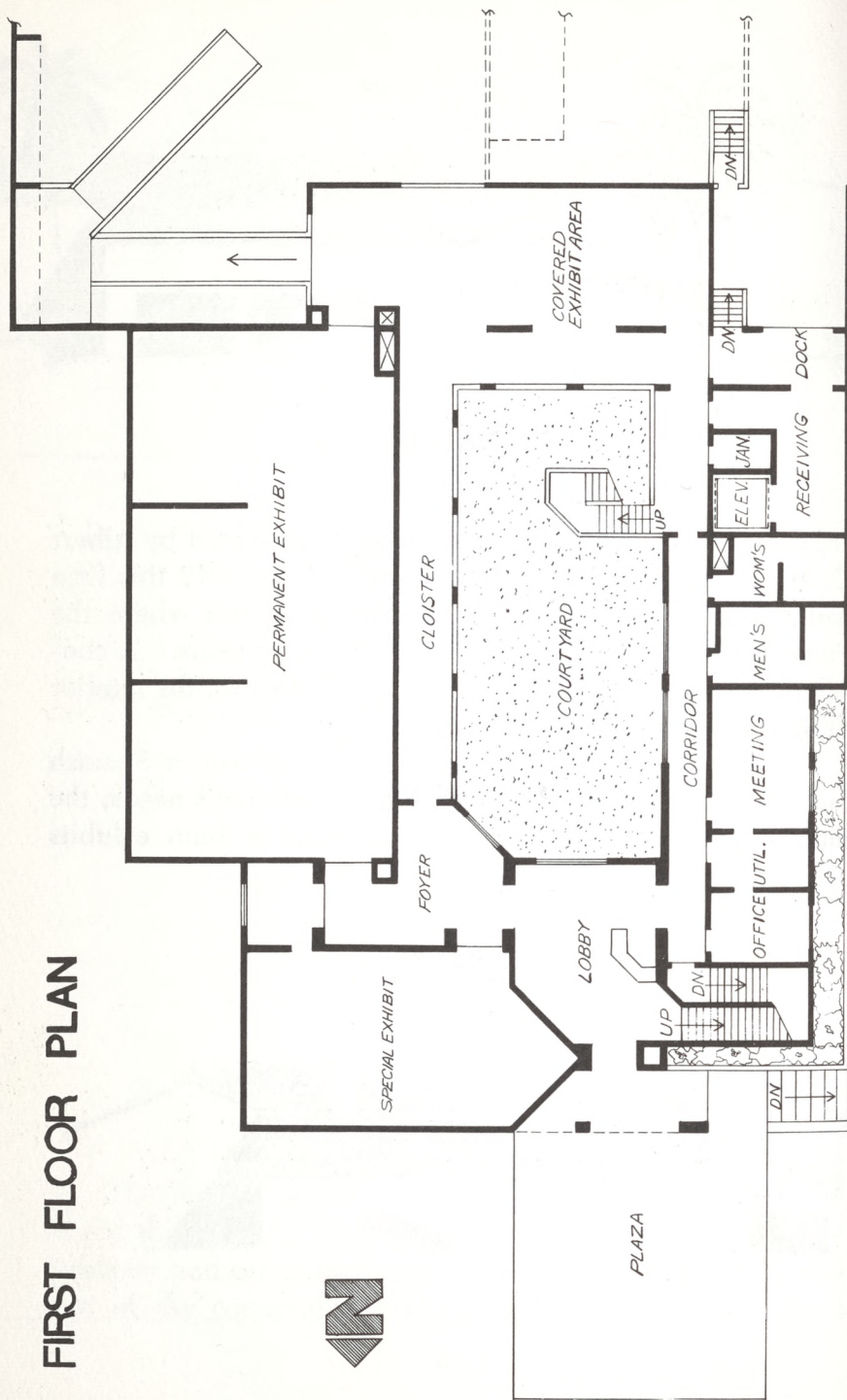
architect could be hired. The concepts presented by Albert C. Martin and Associates won approval. In 1912 this firm had designed the Ventura County Courthouse where the Pioneer Museum had been located for many years. A consultant was retained to work with the architect for the interior design and space needs of a modern museum.

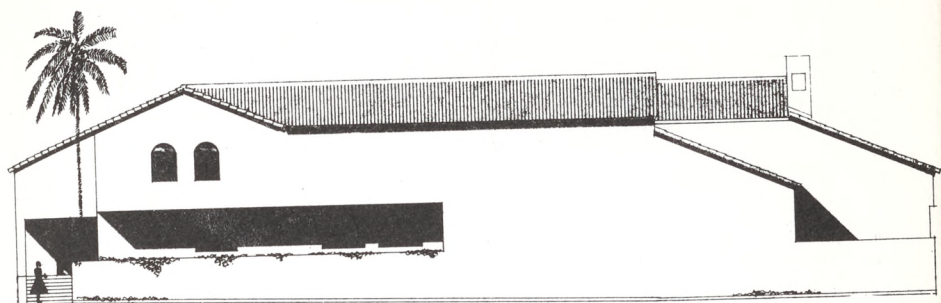
In his travels south Mr. Hoffman had seen a Spanish building whose design he felt would fit Ventura's needs; the interior court around which the museum is built exhibits

BACK



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



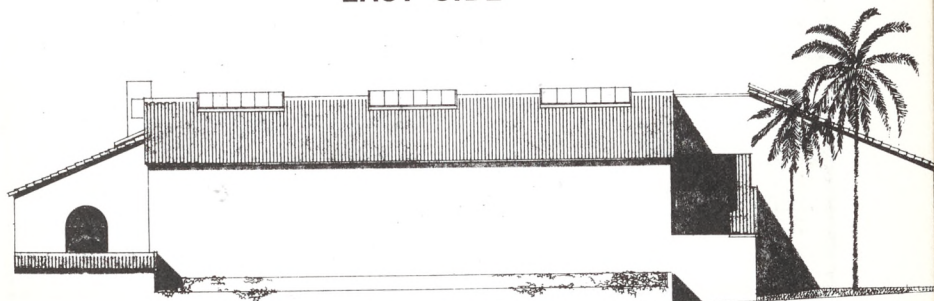


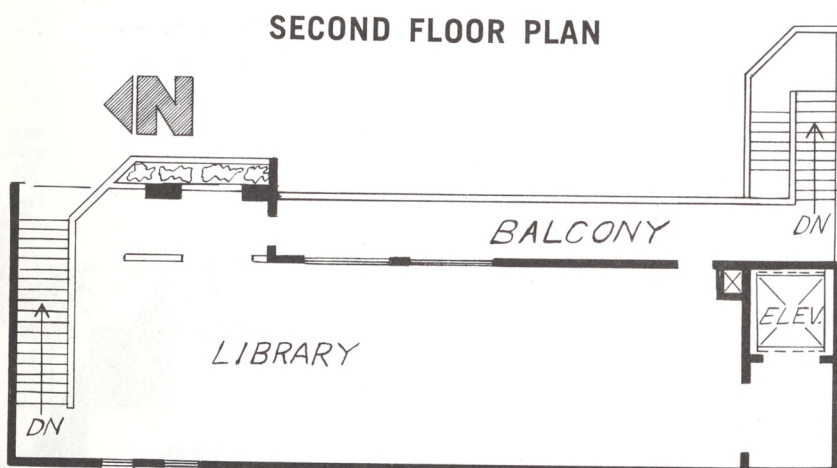
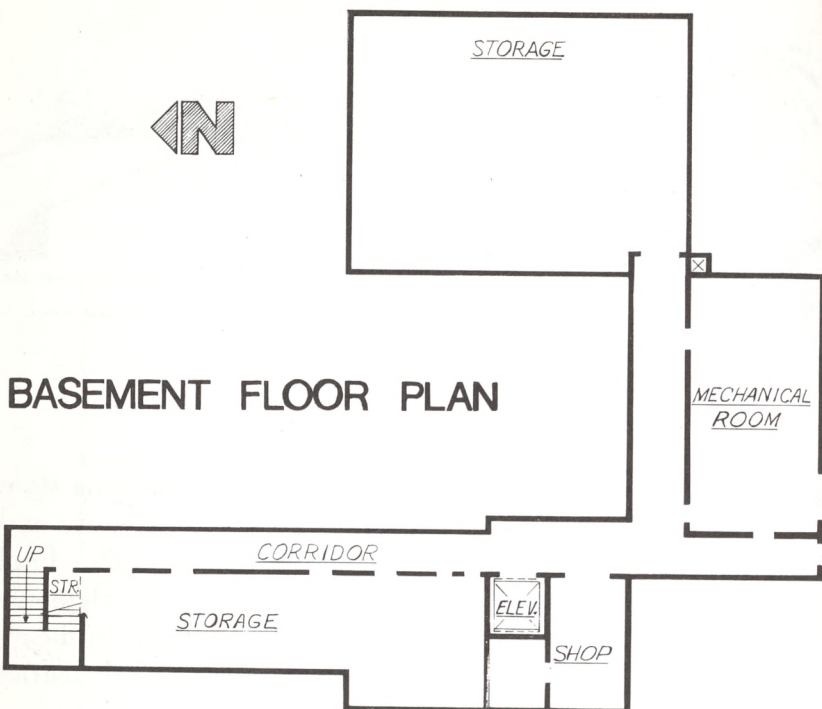
WEST SIDE

this influence. Modern examples of Spanish-California style such as El Paseo, the Santa Barbara County Courthouse and the Los Angeles Union Depot were drawn on. The final designs produced a building which would show the elements of Hispanic architecture in America. It would not duplicate the mission but supplement it in the new historical district developing around the excavations.

The change in name to the Ventura County Historical Museum includes these aspects.

EAST SIDE





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Abbreviations: Aut. = Autumn; Win. = Winter; Spr. = Spring; Sum. = Summer.

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- Abadie, William: Win. '72, **ABA**.
- Adams, William G.: Win. '72, **ADA**, **THA**.
- Agee, Eugene H.: Sum. '72, 47.
- Aggen, Fred M.: Sum. '72, 47.
- Akers, John: Win. '72, **OAT**.
- Albertson, Ed: Sum. '74, 20.
- Alexander, Irene: Win. '74, 18.
- Alexander, Jennie: Win. '74, 1, 14, 17-20.
- Alexander, John: Win. '74, 20-21.
- Alexander, Josiah: Win. '74, 16, 18, 20, 24.
- Alexander, Mac: Win. '74, 14-16, 21, 24.
- Alexander, Mary: Win. '74, 14, 16, 18.
- Alexander, S. J.: Win. '74, 14-18, 20-25.
- Alexander, Sara: Win. '74, 14, 18, 21, 24.
- Allen, G. L.: Sum. '72, 5.
- Allen, John: Sum. '72, 5.
- Alvarado, Joaquina: Win. '72, **CANA**.
- Alvord, J. B.: Fall '73, 9, 14.
- Anderson, Clyde C.: Win. '71, 10-11, 22-24.
- Andrews, Lewis W.: Fall '73, 22, 29, 37.
- Anguisola, M.: Spr. '73, 14.
- Anlauf, Herman: Win. '72, **ANL**.
- Arbuckle, Roscoe (Fatty): Win. '71, 24.
- Arellanes, Jose: Win. '72, **TE**.
- Arellanes, Luis: Spr. '73, 14.
- Arellanes, Teodoro: Win. '72, **RIN**.
- Arens, J. M.: Win. '71, 15.
- Arnaz, Jose: Win. '72, Notice; Win. '74, 4.
- Arnaz, Louis: Sum. '74, 20.
- Arrellanes, Jose de la Luz: Spr. '73, 14.
- Arundell, Thomas: Win. '72, **ARU**; Aut. '72, 4-7.
- Arundell, William H.: Win. '72, **ARU**; Aut. '72, 14-15.
- Ashmore, M. J.: Spr. '73, 6, 14.
- Atwood, H. L.: Spr. '75, 47.

Avila, Francisco: Win. '72, CAMU.
 Ayala, Crisogono: Win. '72, SANTAA.
 Ayala, Ramon: Sum. '72, 20.
 Ayers, Agnes: Sum. '74, 20.
 Ayers, Albert: Spr. '73, 14.
 Ayers, Christiana (Connor): Spr. '71, 3-7; Sum. '74, 20.
 Ayers, Ed: Sum. '74, 20.
 Ayers, Edwin Montgomery: Spr. '71, 7.
 Ayers, Elizabeth (Connor, Aunt Lizzie): Spr. '71, 7.
 Ayers, Frank: Spr. '71, 7.
 Ayers, Frank, Jr.: Win. '72, AY.
 Ayers, Ida: Spr. '71, 7.
 Ayers, James: Spr. '75, 30, 33-34.
 Ayers, James J.: Spr. '73, 10.
 Ayers, Jennie: Spr. '71, 7.
 Ayers, Joe: Sum. '74, 20.
 Ayers, John: Sum. '74, 20, 33-34, 37.
 Ayers, John Henry: Spr. '71, 7; Sum. '74, 20.
 Ayers, Johnny: Spr. '75, 38, 41.
 Ayers, Josephine: Sum. '74, 20.
 Ayers, Robert: Spr. '71, 1-7; Sum. '71, 1; Win. '72, AY;
 Sum. '74, 13, 20-21.
 Ayers, William: Spr. '71, 7.

B

Bacon, Harry: Sum. '72, 41.
 Bacon, M.: Sum. '72, 5.
 Baers, W.: Fall '73, 35.
 Baesa, T.: Spr. '73, 46.
 Bagin, Phil. C.: Fall '73, 31.
 Bailey, Charles H.: Sum. '72, 12; Aut. '72, 7; Spr. '73, 6, 14.
 Baker, C. N.: Spr. '75, 40.
 Baker, Henry: Fall '74, 4.
 Balcom, H. P.: Win. '72, BALC.
 Balcom, James Gannon: Win. '72, BALC.
 Balcom, Miles: Win. '72, BALC.
 Barbour, Eli: Spr. '75, 46-47.
 Bard, Dr. Cephas L.: Win. '72, BARD; Sum. '72, 35; Spr. '73, 14,
 25; Spr. '75, 15-16.
 Bard, Richard: Sum. '72, 47.

- Bard, Thomas R.: Sum. '71, 3, 15; Aut. '71, 8-9, 11, 20; Win. '72, Notice, **BARD, BIG, DEN, HU, MCC, NORD, OX, POR, SES, WHEELERC**; Spr. '72, 25, 27; Sum. '72, 3, 8, 13, 15, 17-21, 23-26, 33, 37, 42, 44-45, 47; Aut. '72, 6-7, 11, 14; Fall '73, 9; Sum. '74, 20-22, 27.
- Barker, J. A.: Spr. '75, 15.
- Barkla, J. S.: Spr. '75, 40.
- Barlow, Edward Sumner: Win. '72, **BARL**.
- Barnard, A. D.: Win. '72, **ORTO**; Spr. '73, 14, 47; Sum. '74, 12-13, 16; Spr. '75, 33.
- Barnard, M. P.: Spr. '73, 14.
- Barnard, W. E.: Sum.: '71, 16; Win. '72, **POR**; Sum. '72, 4, 12-16, 19-21, 23-24; Spr. '73, 27.
- Barnett, Charles: Sum. '74, 20.
- Barnett, W.: Spr. '73, 14.
- Barry, John A.: Spr. '73, 6, 14, 26.
- Bartlett, George C.: Win. '72, **BART**.
- Bates, M. A.: Sum. '74, 20.
- Beale, Edward Fitzgerald: Sum. '74, 4.
- Beard, W.: Spr. '75, 47.
- Beardsley, Melvin W.: Win. '72, **BEARD**.
- Bedell, E. A.: Aut. '72, 2.
- Beebe, James: Win. '74, 7.
- Bell, J. H.: Fall '73, 39.
- Bernheim, A.: Spr. '73, 25.
- Bixby, Jonathan: Sum. '71, 15-16.
- Bixby, Jotham: Spr. '75, 14.
- Blackstock, Charlie: Sum. '71, 5-7.
- Blackstock, N.: Sum. '71, 7; Sum. '73, 20.
- Blakesley, Frank: Spr. '75, 14-16.
- Blanchard, Hooper Crews: Win. '72, **BLANCHARD**.
- Blanchard, Nathan Weston: Win. '72, **BLANCHARDS, SANTAP**; Spr. '75, 3, 6, 8-10, 13, 15-16, 19, 22-23, 32, 37-38, 42-44.
- Blanchard, Nathan Weston III: Spr. '75, front end page.
- Blanchard, Nathan Weston IV: Spr. '75, front end page.
- Blanchard, Nathan Weston V: Spr. '75, front end page.
- Blanchard, Vincent: Win. '72, **BLANCHARD**.
- Blumberg, A. W.: Win. '72, **MAT**; Sum. '74, 15-16, 18-20, 27; Spring '75, 47.
- Blumberg, Wheeler C.: Spr. '71, 21-25; Win. '72, **WHEELERS**.

Bonebreak, George H.: Win. '72, **MEIE**.
 Boosey, William M.: Win. '72, **BOO**.
 Booth, Newton: Spr. '72, 16, 18, 22, 24, 28.
 Borchard, Frank: Sum. '73, 3.
 Borchard, Henry A.: Sum. '72, 47.
 Borchard, J. E.: Fall '73, 14.
 Boukoisky, Martha: Spr. '73, 27.
 Bowers, Dr. Stephen: Win. '72, **MUT, SEY**; Sum. '73, 20-21.
 Bowman, Mary M.: Sum. '73, 19.
 Bracken, Bertram: Win. '71, 22-23.
 Bradley, E. L.: Win. '72, **SANTAP**; Spr. '75, 6, 23.
 Bradley, E. M.: Spr. '73, 14.
 Bradley, John H.: Spr. '72, 3, 27; Spr. '73, 6, 14, 26.
 Bradley, Stephen: Win. '71, 12.
 Brandon, W.: Spr. '73, 14.
 Brady, James: Sum. '72, 29-32; Aut. '72, 15, 17-18, 20-23.
 Brewster, John Calvin: Spr. '73, 23, 26.
 Briggs, Duke: Win. '71, 16.
 Briggs, G. S.: Win. '74, 7.
 Briggs, George G.: Win. '72, **BRI**; Spr. '75, 4.
 Briggs, S. B.: Sum. '74, 20.
 Bristol, Rev. Sherlock: Win. '72, Notice; Spr. '72, 27.
 Brooks, E. C.: Spr. '73, 14.
 Brooks, J. Marion: Spr. '73, 27.
 Brown, Austin: Spr. '73, 26.
 Brown, David: Win. '72, **BROWN**.
 Brown, R. M.: Spr. '73, 6, 14, 24-25.
 Brown, W.W.: Win. '72, **CAMA**.
 Browne, A. W.: Fall '73, 19; Sum. '74, 20.
 Browne, J. Ross: Sum. '74, 21.
 Buckman, S. S.: Spr. '73, 27; Sum. '74, 31-33; Spr. '75, 37.
 Bueno, Cabrera: Win. '72, **POR**.
 Burdick, Curt: Sum. '72, 38.
 Burke, John: Win. '75, 21.
 Burkley, Gus: Sum. '72, 45.
 Butcher, R.: Spr. '75, 33-37, 39, 41.
 Byers, P.: Spr. '75, 47.

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Cabrillo, Juan Rodriguez (Cabrillo, Joao): Win. '72, **VEN**.

Camarillo, Juan: Win. '72, Notice, **CAMA**; Spr. '73, 10.
 Cameron, Alexander M.: Win. '72, **ALI**; Win. '74, 7.
 Campbell, Sanford: Spr. '74, 13, 15.
 Candalaria: Win. '72, **HE**.
 Canet, Anseline: Win. '72, **CANE**.
 Canet, Mary Louise: Win. '72 **LID**.
 Cannon, Marion: Win. '72, **CANN**.
 Carne, Louis: Sum. '72, 39.
 Carr, John: Win. '74, 3.
 Carr, Wm. D.: Spr. '73, 14.
 Carrillo, Carlos Antonio: Win. '72, **SANC**, **SES**.
 Carrillo, Jose: Win. '72, **LASP**.
 Casarin, Manuel Jimeno: Win. '72, **SANTAP**, **SAT**.
 Cerf, Leon: Spr. '73, 14, 25; Fall '74, 6.
 Chaffee, Walter S.: Aut. '71, 7, 9; Win. '72, **POL**; Aut. '72, 4,
 7, 10, 17; Spr. '73, 14; Sum. '73, 20; Win. '74, 4, 7.
 Chapman, T. F.: Spr. '73, 14, 23, 26.
 Charlebois, Agnes (Ayers): Spr. '71, 5, 7; Sum. '74, 20.
 Charlebois, Paul (Uncle Charlie): Spr. '71, 7; Sum. '74, 20.
 Charles, J. M.: Sum. '74, 23.
 Chateuneuf, Albert: Aut. '71, 7.
 Chavez, Cleovaro: Spr. '74, 10, 17.
 Chillson, L. D.: Spr. '73, 23.
 Chillson, W. D.: Aut. '71, 7.
 Chrisman, Gilpin Wallace: Win. '72, **CHR**; Spr. '73, 26.
 Christensen, Christopher: Sum. '72, 12.
 Clanton, Newman Haynes (Old Man): Sum. '72, 24.
 Clark, A. S.: Sum. '72, 5; Spr. '73, 25.
 Clark, Dana B.: Spr. '75, 4, 8-10, 14-15, 17, 22-23, 26, 28-30, 32,
 37.
 Clark, J. H.: Sum. '72, 16; Spr. '73, 14.
 Clark, Thomas: Win. '72, **CLA**; Sum. '74, 20.
 Clarke, Robert M.: Win. '72, **CORE**.
 Clay, Henry: Win. '72, **NI**; Spr. '73, 26.
 Coble, Wesley: Sum. '72, 5.
 Coffin, G. W.: Spr. '74, 8.
 Coffman, J. M.: Spr. '75, 41.
 Cohn, David: Fall '73, 37.
 Cohn, H.: Spr. '73, 14.
 Cohn, Morris: Spr. '75, 37, 39-40.

Cohn, Simon: Win. '72, **ELR**; Sum. '72, 39.
 Cole, Rosa (Holmes): Aut. '70, 19.
 Colegrove, H.H.: Spr. '73, 14.
 Collins, D. Edward: Fall '73, 11.
 Collins J. S.: Fall '73, 14.
 Collins, Jack: Sum. '72, 38.
 Colombo, A.: Win. '74, 3.
 Colwell, J. C.: Spr. '73, 14.
 Comapla, Rev. Juan (Padre Juan): Spr. '73, 29.
 Conklin, George L.: Fall '73, 31.
 Conn, Betsy: Spr. '73, 27.
 Connor, Henry: Spr. '71, 7.
 Connors, Buck: Win. '71, 13, 15.
 Constantia, Pedro: Spr. '73, 14.
 Conway, J. A.: Win. '72, Notice; Spr. '73, 29, 31.
 Cook, David: Aut. '71, 18, 27.
 Cook, David Caleb: Aut. '71, 16-29; Win. '72, **BLANCHARD**,
PIRU.
 Cook, George: Aut. '71, 18, 27, 29.
 Cook, Marguerite: Aut. '71, 17-20.
 Cooper, Joel, H.: Spr. '72, 8, 10, 13-14, 17, 22-24, 26.
 Cooper, Joseph Harrison: Win. '72, **COO**.
 Corbett, L. W.: Win. '71, 6, 8.
 Corey, John Griffin: Win. '72, **CORE**; Spr. '75, 26.
 Corrigan, Ray (Crash): Win. '72, **CORR**.
 Corry, J. C.: Spr. '73, 14.
 Costanzo, Miguel: Win. '72, **ANACAPA**, **VEN**.
 Cota, Valentin: Win. '72, **SANTAC**.
 Cottman, N. R.: Fall '73, 29.
 Coy, Owen C.: Win. '73, 1.
 Crane, Emmet: Sum. '71, 14.
 Crane, Jefferson: Win. '72, **ADA**.
 Cronk, W. S.: Spr. '73, 26.
 Crosby, J. N.: Spr. '73, 14.
 Crumrine, Harrison: Win. '72, **CR**.
 Cryer, Charles: Spr. '73, 9.
 Cuella, Andres: Spr. '73, 14.
 Cummings, John F.: Spr. '75, 27, 40.
 Curtis, Henry: Spr. '73, 14.
 Cutler, J. P.: Spr. '73, 25, 47.

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- Daly, James: Win. '72, Notice; Sum. '72, 39; Spr. '73, 14, 28-29, 31; Sum. '74, 20.
- Daly, T. H.: Spr. '73, 25.
- Davis, Frank E.: Win. '71, 3, 8, 10, 13.
- Day, J. A.: Spr. '73, 26.
- Deal, A. A.: Sum. '72, 5.
- Dean, D. C.: Spr. '73, 26.
- Decker, C. H.: Aut. '71, 24.
- De Jesus, Juan: Sum. '73, 25.
- De la Guerra, Jose: Aut. '71, 18.
- De la Rosa, Jose (Don Jose, Don Pepe): Sum. '73, 14, 16-23, 25.
- Delmont, Dr. F.: Spr. '73, 47.
- Del Valle, Antonio: Win. '72, **CAMU, SANF.**
- Del Valle, Reginaldo: Aut. '71, 18.
- Del Valle, Ysabel Varela: Aut. '71, 18.
- Del Valle, Ygnacio: Aut. '71, 18; Win. '72, **FU**; Win. '74, 4; Spr. '74, 4.
- De Merritte, C. J.: Spr. '73, 14.
- Dempsey, Daniel: Sum. '72, 12.
- Dennis, George P.: Fall '73, 31.
- Dennis, Thomas: Win. '74, 7.
- Dennison, Celia: Sum. '74, 20.
- Dennison, Henry Jackson: Win. '72, **DEN.**
- Denure, D. D.: Spr. '73, 27.
- Detroy, G. P.: Spr. '73, 14.
- Detroy, Joe: Spr. '73, 14, 25.
- Dibble, J. E.: Win. '71, 10.
- Diefenbach, Jake: Sum. '72, 39.
- Dietz, Nellie: Win. '71, 5.
- Dietz, Sarah: Win. '71, 5.
- Dilworth, Dr. W. D.: Sum. '72, 39.
- Dingess, Abbie: Win. '72, **PEA.**
- Dingman, Al: Sum. '72, 47.
- Dizdar, Hazen: Win. '72, **DI.**
- Dobbins, H. H.: Spr. '75, 38, 40, 47.
- Dobbins, Rev. H. H.: Spr. '73, 23, 27.
- Dodson, Jesse: Spr. '75, 17, 30, 32.
- Dominguez, Adelaide: Sum. '74, 20.

Dominguez, Stephen: Win. '72, **DOM**.
 Donlan, Patrick: Win. '72, **DON**.
 Donlan, Peter: Win. '72, **DON**.
 Donlon, Jim: Spr. '71, 25-27.
 Drapeau, Louis: Sum. '71, 18.
 Drifill, J. A.: Fall '73, 19, 24, 29, 31-32, 35.
 Dron, Jack: Win. '75, 13, 17.
 Drown, A. L.: Win. '71, 10.
 D'Spain, Tom: Sum. '72, 16.
 Dubbers, Wilhelmina: Win. '74, 5.
 Dubois, Henry: Spr. '73, 46.
 Dudley, Benjamin Wells: Fall '74, 2-7, 9-10.
 Dudley, Caroline Louise (Smith): Fall '74, 4, 8, 10.
 Dudley, Frank H.: Fall '74, 2-3.
 Dudley, Leavitt Oscar: Fall '74, 4, 10.
 Dudley, Mirian (Knox): Fall '74, 1, 3-4, 10.
 Dudley, Myrtle (Clay): Spr. '71, 1.
 Dudley, Oscar (Dooley): Fall '74, 4, 10.
 Dunn, Anna: Sum. '72, 33.
 Dunn, Joe: Sum. '72, 33.
 Dunn, Johnny: Aut. '71, 16.
 Dunn, Josephine: Sum. '72, 33.
 Dunn, Laura: Sum. '72, 33.
 Dunn, Oliver: Sum. '72, 33.
 Dunn, Robert: Win. '72, **DU**.
 Dunn, Stella: Sum. '72, 33.
 Duval, Mary (Knox): Fall '74, 4.
 Dye, Joe: Win. '72, **HAINESC**.

E

Easley, S. M. W.: Win. '72, **HAP, MEIE**; Spr. '73, 29, 31.
 Easley, Warham: Spr. '75, 16-17, 22, 38, 40.
 Eastin, L. F.: Spr. '73, 31, 33; Sum. '74, 20; Spr. '75, 23, 25.
 Eastwood, H. H.: Sum. '72, 47.
 Edson, C. J.: Spr. '73, 24, 46.
 Edwards, Cullen White: Win. '72, **ED**.
 Edwards, E. A.: Spr. '73, 6, 14, 25, 29.
 Edwards, Thorton: Win. '71, 24.
 Egbert, J. M.: Spr. '73, 14.
 Elderedge, Zoeth: Win. '72, **ELR**.

Ellsworth, Charles C.: Win. '72, **ELL**; Spr. '75, 27, 40.
 Ellsworth, Daniel: Win. '72, **ELL**.
 Elmore, Benjamin: Win. '72, **NI**.
 Elwell, Juan: Spr. '73, 14.
 Escandon, Angel Gonzales: Aut. '71, 3, 5-8; Win. '72, Notice;
 Spr. '72, 27; Spr. '73, 14, 45-46.
 Ewing, Felix W.: Spr. '71, 27; Sum. '71, 7.

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Fagan, Michael: Win. '72, **FAG**.
 Fairbanks, Charley: Sum. '72, 30.
 Fairbanks, Fergus Linn (Ted): Sum. '71, 1-8; Sum. '72, 3, 33-39,
 41-42, 44-45.
 Fairbanks, Winnie: Sum. '72, 41.
 Faria, Manuel: Win. '72, **FAR**.
 Farley, Alma: Win. '71, 15.
 Farley, Dorothea: Win. '71, 15.
 Farrand, Alice (Knox): Fall '74, 4.
 Farrand, George: Fall '74, 4.
 Faure, Emile: Win. '75, 13.
 Featherstonbaugh, Stuart H.: Win. '71, 11.
 Felix, Vincente: Win. '72, **SANTAC**.
 Ferguson, M.: Sum. '72, 5.
 Ferguson, Nellie: Sum. '74, 20.
 Fernald, Charles: Sum. '72, 21.
 Fernandez, Jesus: Win. '71, 6.
 Fernandez, Joe: Win. '72, **JU**.
 Fernandez, Juan Bautista: Win. '72, **JU**.
 Fields, W. C.: Win. '71, 24.
 Fillmore, J. A.: Win. '72, **FI**.
 Finney, C. G.: Spr. '73, 25.
 Fleet, W. H.: Aut. '71, 26.
 Flint, Henry Pinney: Sum. '71, 13, 15-16; Sum. '72, 12;
 Win. '74, 7-8.
 Follett, A. D.: Spr. '73, 14.
 Ford, Victoria: Win. '71, 15.
 Forster, Juan: Aut. '71, 18.
 Foster, Eugene P.: Sum. '71, 15-16, 20-21; Win. '72, **FO**, **HOF**;
 Sum. '72, 34; Fall '73, 9, 11, 14.
 Foster, F. A.: Sum. '72, 34.

Fowler, Malinda: Sum. '73, 9.
 Fowler, Welcome: Sum. '73, 9.
 Fox, William A.: Aut. '72, 2.
 Franz, Emmanuel: Spr. '73, 14, 24, 46.
 Franz, Florine: Win. '71, 9.
 Franz, Joseph: Win. '71, 9, 14-15.
 Frazier, William T.: Win. '72, **FRAZ.**
 Fremont, John C.: Win. '72, **FREM, SANTAS**; Fall '74, 22.
 French, Charles: Aut. '71, 24.
 French, Warren: Aut. '70, 20.
 Frey, John Christopher: Win. '72, **FREY.**
 Frost, Ben: Sum. '72, 5.
 Fustero, Juan: Win. '72, **FU.**

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Gabbert, Thomas Gaven: Win. '72, **GA.**
 Gardner, Earl Stanley: Sum. '71, 7.
 Gay, Alice: Aut. '71, 21.
 Gay, Leslie Fillman: Aut. '71, 20-21, 25-26.
 Gerberding, A.: Sum. '74, 20.
 Gerberding, Mary: Sum. '74, 20.
 Gerbeding, Otto: Sum. '72, 42.
 Gilbert, D.: Sum. '72, 5.
 Gilbert, George S.: Sum. '71, 13, 15-16; Sum. '72, 4, 12;
 Spr. '73, 14; Win. '74, 4, 7; Sum. '74, 20, 24.
 Gilbert, George S. Jr.: Spr. '73, 23, 25.
 Gilger, Charley: Spr. '71, 25.
 Gill, Alexander: Win. '72, **GILLB.**
 Gillibrand, Edward Clayton: Win. '72, **GILLI.**
 Gird, Richard: Sum. '71, 14.
 Golding, Thos.: Spr. '75, 45.
 Gonzales, Felipe: Spr. '73, 14; Win. '74, 4.
 Gonzalez, Leandro: Win. '72, **SANTAC.**
 Gonzales, Manuel: Win. '74, 4.
 Gonzalez, Rafael: Win. '72, **SANTAC**; Fall '73, 22.
 Goodwin, J. W.: Aut. '72, 14; Spr. '73, 14.
 Gordo, Paisano: Win. '72, **DEN.**
 Gordon, Wm. A.: Spr. '75, 17, 23, 35, 37, 39, 41.
 Gosnell, Truman Barrick: Win. '72, **GO.**
 Granger, Ben: Spr. '75, 47.

Granger, W. H.: Spr. '73, 14; Sum. '74, 20.
 Grant, Kenneth Peter: Win. '72, **GRA**; Spr. '73, 14.
 Grawell, O. P.: Spr. '75, 23, 41, 46.
 Gray, Alexander: Spr. '75, 4, 8-9, 15, 17-19, 22, 27, 29, 39-40.
 Greene, E. O.: Sum. '72, 47.
 Greenwood, L.: Spr. '73, 14.
 Gridley, Ella C.: Win. '72, **GRID**.
 Gridley, Samuel Clark: Win. '72, **GRID**.
 Gries, J. K.: Spr. '75, 4, 22, 28, 40.
 Gries, John: Spr. '75, 28.
 Grimes, Brice: Win. '72, **GRIM**; Spr. '73, 6, 13-14,
 18, 22, 25, 27, 47.
 Grove, David: Spr. '73, 14.
 Grow, G. T.: Spr. '73, 25.
 Guiberson, J. W.: Spr. '73, 14.
 Guiberson, Dr. S. P.: Win. '72, **FREY, HI**; Spr. '73, 14;
 Spr. '75, 15, 29-30, 33, 36-37, 41.

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Haas, W. H.: Win. '71, 10.
 Haddock, William: Win. '71, 5.
 Haines, Abner: Win. '72, **HAINES**; Spr. '75, 4, 17, 40.
 Haines, Herman: Win. '72, **HAINESC**.
 Hall, Art: Win. '72, **HAL**.
 Hall, Arthur: Sum. '74, 20.
 Hall, Bill: Win. '72, **HAL**.
 Hall, Dick: Win. '72, **HAL**.
 Hall, F. M.: Spr. '75, 41.
 Hall, Ira: Sum. '74, 20.
 Hall, Lewis: Win. '71, 12.
 Halley, M.: Spr. '73, 23.
 Hamilton, Gilbert P.: Win. '71, 13-19.
 Hammond, Elisha George: Win. '72, **HAMM**.
 Hammond, Maria J.: Win. '72, **HAMM**.
 Hampton, Henry: Win. '72, **HAMP**.
 Hampton, Wade: Win. '72, **HAMP**.
 Hardison, A. C.: Sum. '71, 21.
 Hare, Ed. T.: Sum. '74, 18, 20; Spr. '75, 24.
 Harmon, Silas Solon: Win. '72, **HAR**.
 Harper, Sam: Spr. '74, 6, 10, 12.

Harrington, A. Jack: Spr. '73, 14; Win. '74, 7, 9;
 Spr. '75, 16-17, 39, 41.
 Harrison, Benjamin: Fall '74, 17.
 Hart, Earl W.: Sum. '72, 47.
 Hartman, Chris: Fall '73, 38.
 Hawkins, P. B.: Sum. '72, 5.
 Haydock, Richard D. (Dick): Spr. '71, 1, 16-29; Sum. '71, 4-5;
 Win. '72, **WHEELERS**; Sum. '72, 41.
 Haydon, Dick: Sum. '71, 18.
 Hearne, Red: Win. '71, 3.
 Hector, Zach: Spr. '75, 41.
 Hedrick, A.: Spr. '75, 40.
 Hedrick, Louisa (Seymour): Win. '72, **SEY**.
 Henderson, Haines (Ted): Win. '71, 1, 10, 19-22.
 Henderson, M. M.: Spr. '73, 14.
 Henley, George: Win. '72, **HE**.
 Henning, T.: Spr. '73, 14.
 Herbert, L. R.: Spr. '73, 26; Sum. '74, 15, 20.
 Herbst, J. H.: Sum. '72, 39.
 Hickerson, N. H.: Spr. '73, 26.
 Hicks, Carrie: Sum. '74, 20.
 Higgins, Elijah B.: Win. '72, **MILLP, SAT**; Spr. '73, 27;
 Spr. '75, 4, 6.
 Hill, A.: Fall '73, 37.
 Hill, Ernest R.: Fall '73, 22, 29, 38.
 Hill, John: Sum. '72, 5; Win. '74, 7.
 Hill, John Graves: Win. '72, **CANN**; Fall '73, 29.
 Hill, R.: Fall '73, 35.
 Hill, Ralph: Sum. '72, 41.
 Hines, Johnathan Doan: Win. '72, **ELR, HI**.
 Hobart, Joseph: Sum. '74, 23.
 Hobson, A. L.: Sum. '71, 15.
 Hobson, William Dewey: Win. '72, Notice, **HOBS**; Spr. '72,
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 Hoffman, Edith (Hobson): Spr. '71, 7; Win. '72, **HOF**.
 Hoffman, Walter: Spr. '71, 7; Win. '72, **HOF**.
 Hogue, L. B.: Sum. '71, 21.
 Hollingsworth, Jack: Sum. '71, 24-25.
 Holser, John: Win. '72, **HOL**.

Hopper, Ari: Win. '72, **HOP**.
Hostetter, Frank: Sum. '72, 6.
Howard, Jesse Jefferson (Jeff): Win. '72, **HOW**.
Hubbard, A. F.: Spr. '73, 14.
Huber, Charlie: Win. '71, 15.
Hughes, John: Aut. '72, 17.
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Hull, Morton B.: Win. '72, **KEI**.
Hunt, R. O.: Win. '72, **NE**.
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Isbell, Dr. Isaac Chauncey: Win. '74, 11; Spr. '75, 18.
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Jackson, Amos: Spr. '73, 14.
Jackson, Helen Hunt: Win. '72, **CAMU, RA**.
Jepson, Thomas Watson: Win. '72, **JE**.
Jepson, W. A.: Spr. '73, 14.
Johnson, George: Aut. '72, 4, 6-7, 10, 17.
Johnson, Dell: Win. '74, 21.
Johnson, Sammie: Win. '74, 21.
Johnson, Wm.: Sum. '74, 20.
Jones, E. M.: Spr. '73, 14, 26, 46.
Jones, E. S.: Spr. '75, 16-17, 35-36, 39.
Jones, Ed: Sum. '74, 20.
Jones, Georgie: Sum. '74, 20.
Jones, H. K.: Sum. '72, 5.
Jones, J. N.: Sum. '74, 23.
Joy, Alfred: Win. '72, **JO**.
Judkins, W. S.: Sum. '72, 14-16.

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Kamp, Harald, L.: Sum. '73, 17, 21.
Kamp, Josefina (Higuera): Sum. '73, 17.
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Kennedy, John Logan: Win. '72, **KENNED**; Sum. '74, 20.
Kenney, Cyrus: Win. '72, **KENNEY**.

Kenney, Harry: Win. '72, **LOR**.
 Kent, Leon: Win. '71, 15.
 Kincaid, J. H.: Aut. '71, 7.
 King, Marion: Win. '71, 22.
 Kittredge, Charmion (Wylie): Win. '72, **WY**.
 Knox, Adalaide (Leavitt): Fall '74, 4-5.
 Knox, Jefferson L.: Fall '74, 4.
 Knox, John L.: Fall '74, 4.
 Korts, B. H.: Sum. '72, 39-40.
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 Larmer, John: Sum. '74, 20.
 LaRocque, Rod: Win. '71, 24.
 Lavelle, Ellen: Sum. '74, 20.
 Leach, C. W.: Sum. '72, 8, 37; Sum. '74, 13.
 Leach, Emma: Sum. '74, 20.
 Leach, Willis: Sum. '74, 20.
 Leavitt, Henrietta (Baker): Fall '74, 4.
 Leavitt, Jeremiah: Fall '74, 4.
 Lechler, Bill: Aut. '71, 23.
 Lechler, Geo. W.: Win. '72, **LEC**.
 Leech, F. S.: Spr. '73, 14.
 Lehman, B.: Spr. '73, 14.
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 Lehmann, L.: Fall '73, 14.
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 Loftus, William (Billy): Win. '72, **LOF**.
 Lopez, Francisco: Win. '72, **TE**.
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 Lord, Ivory Daniels: Win. '72, **LOR**.
 Lorenzana, Felipe: Win. '72, **OL**.
 Lorenzana, Tranquilina: Sum. '74, 20.
 Lucas, A. B.: Aut. '71, 26.
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 Lucking, William Sr.: Win. '75, 2-19, 26-29.
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 McCoy, Charles Beatty: Win. '72, **MCC**, **ROBLAR**;
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 McFarland, Ernest: Sum. '72, 33.
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 McGrath, Dominick: Win. '72, **MCG**.
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 McKenna, John: Spr. '75, 40.
 McKenzie, R. R.: Sum. '72, 47.
 McLaughlin, Mark: Fall '73, 9, 14.
 McMartin, Ed G.: Sum. '71, 18.
 McMillan, Douglas Spencer: Sum. '73, 7, 9.
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 McMillan, Paul Donald: Sum. '73, 11.
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 Malcomson, R. G.: Win. '71, 10.
 Manuel, John: Win. '72, **MAN.**
 Marglin, Jin: Aut. '70, 18.
 Marks, M. H.: Sum. '74, 20.
 Marr, Morton: Win. '72, **MAR.**
 Martin, Albert: Win. '74, 7.
 Martin, F.: Spr. '73, 14.
 Martin, Ira: Win. '71, 6.
 Mathiessen, F. W.: Win. '72, **SHE.**
 Maulhardt, Albert F.: Sum. '72, 41; Fall '73, 2, 7, 9, 12, 14-15.
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 Maxey, James Bradford: Win. '72, **MAX.**

Mears, John: Sum. '74, 20.
 Mehn, Al: Sum. '72, 47.
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 Meiner, Carl: Win. '72, **MEIN**.
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 Melies, Gaston: Win. '71, 1, 3-13, 15, 19, 22-23.
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 Menchaca, Francesca: Sum. '74, 20.
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 Miller, Cecilia (Orne): Win. '71, 24.
 Miller, H. H.: Spr. '73, 14.
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 Mills, Bella (Collins): Sum. '72, 38.
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 Moraner, Baubtester: Win. '72, **VEN**.
 More, T. Wallace: Win. '72, **SES**; Win. '74, 6.
 Morehouse, H. V.: Fall '74, 15.
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 Murietta, Joaquin: Win. '72, **BONEY, MUR**.
 Mutau, William: Win. '72, **HOR, MUT**.

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 Naumann, Samuel: Win. '72, **NA**.
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O'Hara, William: Win. '72, **OH**.
Olivas, Raimundo: Win. '72, **OL, SANMIGUEL**; Win. '74, 4.
Orcutt, John Hall: Win. '72, **ORC**.
Orcutt, William W.: Win. '72, **ORC**.
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Orton, Robert: Win. '72, **ORTO**.
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Percy, Richard Gird: Sum. '71, 1, 13-29; Win. '72, **AU**.
Percy, Stephen: Sum. '71, 26-27.
Perkins, C. C.: Sum. '74, 20.
Perkins, Celia: Sum. '74, 20.
Perkins, Charles: Sum. '72, 41, 44.
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Perrott, George: Sum. '72, 38.
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Pico, Francisco Javier: Win. '72, **SIM**.
Pico, Miguel: Win. '72, **SIM**.
Pico, Patricio: Win. '72, **SIM**.

Pico, Vincente: Win. '72, **SANTAC**.
 Pierce, D. F.: Fall '73, 35.
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 Polanco, Jose: Win. '72, **CON**.
 Poli, Manuel Antonio Rodriguez de: Win. '74, 3-4, 11.
 Ponce, Robert H.: Win. '72, **LASP**.
 Pond, J. H.: Spr. '75, 17-19, 23, 38, 40.
 Pope, H. S.: Spr. '73, 14.
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 Powell, R. C.: Sum. '74, 20.
 Power, George C.: Win. '72, **LEM**; Fall '73, 19, 24, 34, 38.
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 Ransom, Mary (Akers): Win. '72, **OAT**.
 Rasmussen, Jens: Sum. '72, 39.
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 Reasoner, Benjamin Edward: Win. '72, **REAS**.
 Reasoner, Oliver Perry: Win. '72, **REAS**.
 Renault, Dennis: Spr. '71, 8-15.
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 Requa, Richard: Win. '75, 23.
 Revere, Alphonse: Sum. '71, 23-25.
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 Revolon, Antonio: Win. '72, **REV**.

Revolon, Eugene: Win. '72, **REV.**
 Revolon, Jean Marie: Win. '72, **REV.**
 Reyes, Jacinto: Sum. '73, 4.
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 Richards, William D. F.: Win. '72, Notice.
 Richardson, Frank: Win. '72, **RIC.**
 Richardson, Fred: Win. '72, **RIC.**
 Richardson, George Morton: Win. '72, **RIC.**
 Richardson, Harry: Win. '72, **RIC.**
 Richardson, J.: Spr. '73, 6, 14, 46.
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 Richardson, Louis: Win. '72, **RIC.**
 Richardson, Mark: Win. '72, **SANTAP.**
 Riggen, H. N.: Spr. '73, 26.
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 Riggs, Tommy F.: Sum. '72, 6, 8; Spr. '73, 14.
 Riley, William S.: Sum. '72, 20; Win. '74, 9.
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 Robards, Willis (Billy): Win. '71, 13-16.
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 Roberts, D.: Sum. '72, 11.
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 Rodgers, Owen: Spr. '73, 14, 30.
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 Rodriguez, Ignacio: Win. '72, **CON.**
 Rodriguez, J. A.: Spr. '73, 14.
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Rodriguez, Ramon: Win. '72, **EM, ROD, SANMIGUEL**.
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 Rosenberg, J. S.: Win. '72, **ROS**.
 Ruiz, Jose Pedro: Win. '72, **CAL**.
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 Sanchez, Juan: Win. '72, **SANTAC**; Win. '74, 4.
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 Serrano, Jesus (Jose de Jesus): Win. '72, **SER**.
 Sessions, Dr. O. V.: Sum. '72, 34, 38.
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 Seward, Anna: Win. '72, **ELR**.
 Sewell, Eliza: Spr. '75, 30-31.
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 Shiells, James: Win. '72, **SHI**.
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 Soule, Zaidee: Win. '72, **SOUL**.
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 Spalding, Keith: Win. '72, **KEI**.
 Sparks, Henry: Win. '72, **ORTO, RED, WEL**.
 Spear, Henry: Spr. '73, 14.
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 Stewart, E.: Sum. '72, 5.
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 Taylor, J. B.: Win. '72, **PEA**.
 Taylor, T.: Sum. '74, 20.
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 Valentino, Rudolph: Win. '72, **HOLL**.
 Valenzuela, Jose Maria: Win. '72, **SANTAC**.
 Valenzuela, Salvador: Win. '72, **SANTAC**.
 Vance, James Raymond: Win. '72, **VA**.
 Vancouver, George: Win. '72, **ANACAPA, POR**.
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- Wallace, E. S.: Spr. '73, 26.
- Warner, Jack: Win. '71, 16-19.
- Warring, Hugh: Aut. '71, 18; Win. '72, **BU, WAR.**
- Wason, Milton: Win. '72, **WAS**; Spr. '72, 27;
Aut. '72, 7; Spr. '73, 25.
- Waud, J. B.: Fall '73, 41.
- Webster, Dan: Win. '71, 6, 8, 15-16.
- Weldon, Salmon R.: Win. '72, **WEL.**
- Weldon, W. R. H.: Win. '72, **WEL.**
- Wells, Fred: Sum. '72, 42.
- Wheeler, A. M.: Win. '72, **WHEELERC.**
- Wheeler, George H.: Win. '72, **WHEELERC.**
- Whiting, Carleton: Win. '71, 12.
- Whitman, C. G.: Sum. '72, 38.
- Whitman, Harry: Sum. '72, 38.
- Wiggin, C. P.: Sum. '74, 21-22, 24, 28, 30-31.
- Wilburn, High: Win. '72, **OAT.**
- Wiley, Burton H.: Win. '72, **WIL.**
- Wiley, J.: Spr. '75, 30, 36.
- Willett, George: Win. '74, 1.
- Willett, Jacklin: Win. '72, **MILLD.**
- Willetts, H. L.: Win. '71, 15.
- Williams, Benjamin T.: Win. '71, 10; Aut. '71, 18;
Spr. '73, 14; Sum. '73, 3; Sum. '74, 20; Fall '74, 4.
- Williams, Bill: Win. '75, 4.
- Williams, Irene: Sum. '73, 3.
- Williams, J. Franklin: Spr. '73, 27.
- Williamson, J.: Spr. '73, 14.
- Willis, Oscar: Sum. '71, 14.
- Willis, W. E.: Fall '73, 31.
- Winfield, Robert: Win. '75, 23.
- Wing, Chillingworth Crosby: Win. '72, **WIN**; Spr. '73, 46.
- Wiseman, C. P.: Sum. '74, 22, 30-31.
- Wolfson, Joseph: Spr. '73, 5-7, 9-10, 12, 14.
- Wood, Adrian G.: Win. '72, **EM.**

Wood, Emma: Win. '72, **EM**.
 Woodruff, Bagy: Sum: '72, 33.
 Woodruff, LeWanee: Sum. '72, 33.
 Woods, F. E.: Aut. '71, 26.
 Wooliver, A.: Spr. '75, 40.
 Wright, E. T.: Win. '73, 33-34.
 Wright, S. D.: Sum. '74, 20.

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Yoakum, Dr. Finis E.: Win. '72, **LASL, PIS**.
 Yorba, Ysabel: Win. '72, **GUA**.
 Youngken, Ralph: Win. '71, 13.
 Ysoardy, Bautista: Spr. '73, 14, 26, 46.

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Mrs. Harold K. Dudley
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Marjorie A. Fraser
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Garrett
Mrs. Katherine H. Haley
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Kenneth C. Murphy
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Mrs. Francis Petit
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Nathan W. Blanchard III
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Alan M. Teague
Mr. and Mrs. Milton M. Teague

Half a Century of Service

County Stationers, Inc., 532 E. Main, Ventura. Successor to John J. MacGregor. Since 1898 Ventura County's complete stationer and office furniture dealer.

Janss Corporation. The company began its first real estate development activities in 1889. Operations were moved to the Conejo Valley in 1954 with offices in Thousand Oaks and Newbury Park.

Bank of A. Levy, 143 W. Fifth St., Oxnard. Founded in 1900 by the late Achille Levy, who came to Hueneme in 1875. Since its inception the Bank of A. Levy has been closely allied with the farm and ranch industries of Ventura County.

Noyes Plumbing Co., 1718 E. Main St., Ventura. Established by Bert Wigton and Joseph Noyes in 1924 in the old Hamilton Hotel Bldg., to serve Ventura County.

Joseph P. Reardon Funeral Chapel, 757 East Main Street, Ventura. Successor to the business established by the Reardon family in 1911 and conducted continually in Ventura since that date.

Safeco Title Insurance Company. Successor to Security Title Co., has been insuring title to California properties since 1920 and headquartered in Ventura since 1959.

Santa Barbara Savings and Loan Association, organized September 21, 1887, was the first savings and loan association established in the city of Ventura. The Ventura branch office was opened in June 1944 with H. R. Holst as manager and Janet Walker as assistant and later moved to its present location at 93 South Chestnut Street upon completion of its building in November 1951.

Santa Paula Savings and Loan Association. Organized in April 1890 as the Santa Paula Building and Loan Association with J. R. Haugh, president; Caspar Taylor, vice-president and H. H. Youngken, secretary. This organization has served the interests of home owners and builders, as well as those of the investor.

Union Oil Company of California. Incorporated in Santa Paula in 1890, its operations have spread from Ventura County to become world-wide.

NEW MEMBERS

- William C. Aplin
F. W. Baker
Robert L. Baker
Mr. and Mrs. Richard O. Baugh
Miss Beverly J. Benton
Mr. and Mrs. Harleigh C. Brown
Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Browning
William J. Burkhart
Mr. and Mrs. E. Allan Burks
Faye Campbell
Carolyn Casperson
Catherine S. Chadwick
Patricia Ann Chase
Dr. and Mrs. Angelo Elardo
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Esparza
Mr. and Mrs. James F. Faris
Robert H. Finch
Thana E. Foley
John Fox
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Garrett
Theodosia R. Geisler
Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Gibson
Dr. and Mrs. Richard S. Gould
Dr. J. Michael Gross
Mr. and Mrs. Neil Havens
Mr. and Mrs. Roger H. Hostetler
Mr. and Mrs. Lee W. Jarecky
Ruby L. Jarman
Mr. and Mrs. Richard W. Johnson
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Johnston
Mr. and Mrs. William S. Kirk
Donna B. Kirkpatrick
Dr. and Mrs. Jim F. Lincoln
Mr. and Mrs. Archie J. McInnis
Mr. and Mrs. Wil Marcus
Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Millikan
Mr. and Mrs. Alfred B. North
Mr. and Mrs. J. J. O'Brien
John C. Orr
Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Petit
Carolyn Pidduck
Mr. and Mrs. Charles K. Powell
Howard Quam
Mr. and Mrs. Floyd B. Quigg
Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Radke
Mr. and Mrs. John W. Rains
Mr. and Mrs. Leon Reiman
Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Rooney
Santa Barbara Savings and
Loan Association, Ventura
Mr. and Mrs. Elmer A. Schmidt
Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Scoles
Security Pacific Bank,
Public Affairs Department
Simi Valley Unified School District
Dr. and Mrs. Henry L. Stoutz
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Mr. and Mrs. Edward A. Walker
Msgr. Francis J. Weber
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel L. Weimer
Mr. and Mrs. Roy G. Wilde
Mr. and Mrs. Harold E. Wilson
Mr. and Mrs. Gene Wren

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